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Mormon and gay
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Milk Club gets Boxer to affirm support for 'all couples'

by Cynthia Laird

The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club came close to withdrawing its endorsement of Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California), after the senator's February comments about same-sex marriage caused the club to use a little-known provision in its bylaws to demand a meeting with her staff that ultimately led to Boxer restating her position and affirming her commitment to "full equality for all couples."

Boxer issued the statement March 26. Milk Club board members met with the senator's staff in San Francisco March 17, after club members became infuriated with the senator's comments in February on gay marriage implying that current California law is "fair and appropriate because it gives equal rights and responsibilities to all citizens."

State law, marriage equality advocates argue, is not fair because Proposition 22, which voters passed in 2000, defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman. The city is in the midst of legal battles on several fronts defending San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's authority to order marriage licenses to be issued to same-sex couples and his assertion that same-sex marriage is legal under the state Constitution.

Under the Milk Club's bylaws, it could have withdrawn its endorsement of Boxer and not endorsed her again for five years. The club endorsed Boxer for re-election earlier this year and its endorsement will remain, club officials said. Boxer faces a stiff challenge in November from former Secretary of State Bill Jones, a Republican who's endorsed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Michael Goldstein, Milk Club president, told the *Bay Area Reporter* Tuesday, March 30 that the club's bylaws contain a unique provision that left the club in the position to confront Boxer on her statements, which appeared in the February 20 *San*



Barbara Boxer

AG asks justices to nullify gay marriages, stay court cases

by Matthew S. Bajko

Days after asking the state Supreme Court to nullify the more than 4,000 same-sex marriages performed in San Francisco, Attorney General Bill Lockyer is now trying to halt all lower court proceedings seeking to overturn California's antigay marriage statutes.

On Tuesday, March 30 Lockyer asked the California Judicial Council to immediately stay two cases currently being heard in San Francisco Superior Court, one filed by the city and county and another filed on behalf of same-sex couples seeking the right to wed.

A motion to combine those two cases is to be heard this morning (Thursday, April 1), in the court room of Judge James Warren, the reportedly gay judge removed from the original court proceedings due to opposition from antigay groups who filed to stop the city from performing the gay nuptials.

Responding to that request, Lockyer has

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Ray Hernandez pins a rose on his partner, Charles Burke, before entering City Hall Tuesday.

Experts: DOMA is working fine

by Bob Roehr

Blaming what he called "liberal activist" judges pushing the issue of gay marriage forward, Representative Steve Chabot (R-Ohio) opened a House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution hearing Tuesday, March 30 and denied that election year politics was the reason for the session.

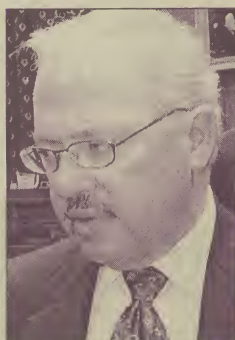
"We are here today because of those actions and events, not because of a political agenda or election year plot," he declared in his opening statement. That was pretty much the extent of red meat for social conservatives at the hearing.

The hearing was called to "review whether DOMA [the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act] will remain a firewall, as Congress intended, that protects one state whose public policy supports traditional marriage from being forced to recognize a same-sex marriage license issued in another state, Chabot said.

"Heterosexual people have long succeeded in failing at marriage without any help from lesbian and gay couples," said Representative Jerrold Nadler (New York), the senior Democrat on the subcommittee. Whether DOMA is constitutional will not be known for sure until



Rep. Steve Chabot



Former Rep. Bob Barr

the court decides, he said. But for now, it is the law of the land.

For Nadler, the purpose of the Constitution is to "protect the rights of unpopular minorities against the majority." Amending it "is clearly a tremendous responsibility" and one that should not be taken lightly or in haste.

Representative John Hostettler (R-Indiana), a favorite of the religious right, lambasted so-called activist judges who "rely upon their own personal world view" to make law. He wants to "rein in a judiciary that has made itself imperial" and return to "a natural feebleness of the judiciary."

Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), the only openly lesbian member of the House, participated in the hearing as a member of the full Judiciary Committee though she is not a member of the subcommittee.

She was troubled by the fact that the constitutional amendments being proposed would inject the federal government into family law, which is traditionally an area of state jurisdiction. The amendments would "mandate specific interpretations of state constitutions ... and would cement gay and lesbian Americans to second-class status."

Bob Barr, the former congressman from Georgia and "father" of DOMA was the lead witness. He said that DOMA "does not proactively define marriage" for the states. While many in Congress wanted to do that in 1996, the majority rejected that approach because of "the fundamental principles of federalism."

Rather, DOMA left the issue open to the states to decide, while at the same time reiterating the principle of the full faith and credit clause that states do not have to recognize marriages performed in other states that do not conform to their own policies.

If a particular state decides to change its definition of marriage, "then the role of the Congress is essentially nil," said Barr.

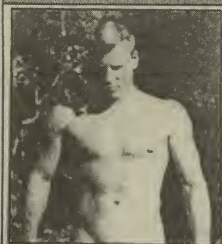
Vincent McCarthy, with the conservative American Center for Law and Justice, raised the specter of the "plot and intention" of gay

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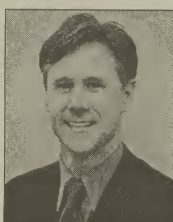


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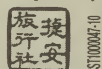
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Anti-demolition bill defeated

by Zak Szymanski

As expected, the anti-demolition bill authored to save the Trinity Plaza apartment building at Market and 8th streets and prevent other landlords from tearing down large rent-controlled buildings did not survive Mayor Gavin Newsom's veto; in a 7-4 vote on Tuesday March 30, the Board of Supervisors fell just one vote short of overriding the veto, angering many queer and housing activists who had fought the demolition on behalf of tenants.

The swing vote came from Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who originally voted for the bill, but changed his position upon the second reading. In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* last month, Dufty said his position had always been cautious, and that he found the bill to be too drastic of a solution for the specific situation at hand. He voted no on the bill, he said, once building developer Angelo Sangiacomo assured him that protections were in place for existing Trinity Plaza tenants.

Dufty's bill was written in response to the scheduled Trinity Plaza demolition, but sought to ban all such demolitions of large habitable buildings so that landlords did not have an incentive to remove rent-controlled apartments and replace them with market-rate units. The Trinity



Nearly 150 residents and supporters of Trinity Plaza, including Sally Ramon (with sign) and Supervisor Chris Daly march to City Hall Monday.

Plaza plan replaces the 377 existing apartments with 1,410 new rentals. Many of the building's residents are queers, immigrants, and people with lower incomes.

Although Sangiacomo has promised lifetime leases to existing tenants once the first tower is built, legal experts say such a promise would not hold up to a challenge, and many tenants have said that the displacement, potential eviction, and possibly years of living on a construction site would be detrimental to their well-being.

For weeks leading up to Tuesday's vote, activists have been organizing to draw attention to Trinity Plaza and the legislation. On Monday, March 29, a coalition of groups gathered at City Hall for a candlelight vigil to "save the homes and community at Trinity Plaza" and "assure that in the future other tenants would not have to live through the nightmare of being threatened with needless demolition and eviction."

Supporters of the bill have promised to bring the failed legislation to the November ballot. ▼

FDA approves rapid oral HIV test

by Liz Highleyman

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration on Friday, March 26 approved the first rapid oral HIV antibody test, which advocates hope will encourage more people to find out whether they are infected.

The new version of the OraQuick rapid test - made by OraSure Technologies of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania - uses a sample of oral mucosal fluid taken with a swab from around the gums. The swab is then inserted into a vial containing a test solution, and results can be read in about 20 minutes. The previous OraQuick test was only approved for use on blood samples.

The new test is more than 99 percent accurate, although a positive result should still be confirmed using a second, more specific antibody test known as the Western Blot.

The rapid oral test will allow individuals to receive their results during a single session. Many people never came back to obtain their results when using the older antibody test, which usually took about two weeks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that about one-quarter of people with HIV in the U.S. do not know they are infected. Experts hope the convenience of the new test will encourage more people to learn their status and receive timely treatment.

The new test does not require refrigeration or special equipment, and is safer for health-care workers because it eliminates the risk of needle-stick injuries while drawing blood.

The test - which is expected to cost \$12-\$15 - will initially be available at some 40,000 approved medical laboratories nationwide, but Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson encouraged the company to request

a waiver to use the test in other settings such as doctor's offices, community clinics, and mobile vans. The test may eventually be available for home use.

"This much anticipated addition to available options for HIV antibody testing means we have a truly convenient, non-invasive, and rapid test," said AIDS Project Los Angeles Executive Director Craig Thompson, who called the approval "one of the biggest HIV stories of 2004."

OraSure also announced last week that the FDA had approved its OraQuick rapid blood test for the detection of both HIV-1 and HIV-2 antibodies. HIV-2 is a less virulent strain found mostly in West Africa. The test was previously approved only for HIV-1, and the new indication is based on additional data showing that it can detect both types of virus. Currently, the rapid oral version of the test is only approved for HIV-1. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

LGBTs weigh options for District 5 race

by Zak Szymanski

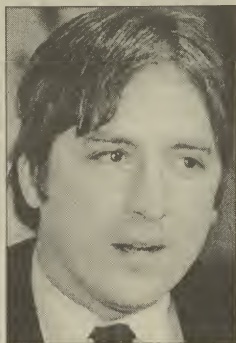
With Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez's decision not to seek re-election, a number of LGBT people and progressives have found themselves weighing their own options and evaluating their loyalties between political parties, identities, and ideologies.

Gonzalez, a progressive and former Democrat who was elected to represent District 5 as a member of the Green Party, has always been anything but predictable, and while his decision to re-enter the legal field seemed premature to many, others said it was completely in character for a man more committed to the issues than his own career.

"I'm so used to people following a classic pattern, and he has so much political capital right now that I'm surprised he did it. But in my eyes this decision absolutely gives him more credibility; he has always talked about the intellectual and issue-oriented part of politics," said Michael Goldstein, president of the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club. "I think this shows him to be a very deep and thoughtful politician and outside of politics as we know them."

Immediately upon Gonzalez's announcement — which he made during an interview with the *San Francisco Examiner* on March 28 — two queer activists found themselves as potential competitors; in discussing who might replace him on the board, Gonzalez mentioned LGBT progressive Democrats Robert Haaland and Bill Barnes, along with Green Party activist Lisa Feldstein. Since then, openly gay assistant district attorney and Democrat Jim Hammer also has been mentioned as a potential candidate, along with several other Democrats and Greens. Again refusing to play by the book, Gonzalez's first considerations showed support for ideology and experience rather than party affiliation or identity.

But such statements may not come as easily to others, particularly for those who occupy more than one political category. Members of the Lavender Greens, for instance, many of whom endorsed both Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Gonzalez in last year's mayoral race, may find themselves once again torn between endors-



Supervisor Matt Gonzalez

ing a fellow progressive queer or a fellow Green.

The Milk Club's Goldstein, who said he believes that everyone interested should run, also noted that at the very least, with instant runoff voting in place, "those who are in the position of endorsing candidates could look at the possibility of ranked choices."

At press time, Haaland was the only LGBT person to confirm his candidacy, although both Barnes and Hammer told the *Bay Area Reporter* that they were seriously considering a run for the seat. All three acknowledged the difficulty in running against LGBT allies with similar positions on the issues, although each emphasized that he would bring different strengths to the job.

"I've worked on a lot of issues that I think matter to the district and I have a long record of advocating for important causes that I think resonate in that district," Haaland told the *B.A.R.* on Monday, March 29.

A labor activist with Service Employees International Union Local 790, Haaland also worked for a number of years as a housing and tenant activist. Additionally, he has been an integral part of a number of progressive campaigns, including the fight for public power, instant runoff voting, and police reform, as well as Harry Britt's 2002 Assembly campaign, and Gonzalez's bids for district attorney and supervisor. As a member of the Democratic County Central Committee, Haaland is the city's first transgender elected to office, and if he succeeds in his bid for supervisor, would make transgender history there as well.

Haaland's campaign, he said, would not focus on his competition, but would instead emphasize his own record.

"I'm going to focus on talking to folks in the district," he said, adding that if the campaign turned negative, "that would be unfortunate. I don't see why it would happen."

On Tuesday, March 30, Barnes told the *B.A.R.* that while he is giving the race "serious thought," he considers it a decision with personal impact, and will need "a week or so to figure it out."

Barnes, an African American gay man who is HIV-positive, works as an aide to District 6 Supervisor Chris Daly, and previously worked for Mayor Willie Brown as the AIDS czar in the office of AIDS and HIV policy. If elected, Barnes would be the first openly HIV-positive supervisor. But his HIV status is also a consideration in his decision to run.

"Part of this decision is making sure I'm healthy. I have an appointment for a physical tomorrow [Wednesday] to make sure it's all in order; I want to be able to tell voters clearly that I'm healthy enough to do this job for four years," said Barnes, who also said that he has spoken to several people, including his potential competitors, in evaluating whether to run.

Although Barnes works for arguably the most leftist supervisor in town, he has also emphasized his neutrality in the recent mayoral runoff, as well as his past service to the Brown administration, which he acknowledged could cost him votes in the uber-liberal District 5 that includes the Haight. But he added that Gonzalez's nod speaks for itself.

"I'm grateful that despite my neutrality in the mayor's race, Gonzalez sees me as a strong candidate for his seat," he said.

Hammer, reached by phone on March 30, told the *B.A.R.* that he, too, is weighing his options and should make a decision about his candidacy soon.

"A number of people have encouraged me to run, and I'm seriously considering it; it would be a terrific opportunity to serve my neighborhood and the city where I was born," he said.

Although he tends not to tout labels like "progressive" or "liberal," Hammer does have a progres-

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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Brownie Mary's ashes missing

The ashes of famed marijuana activist Mary Jane Rathbun, known affectionately as "Brownie Mary," have reportedly been taken from a medical marijuana club in San Francisco and club staffers and others would like them back.

Ms. Rathbun, long a fixture in the medical marijuana community, died April 10, 1999 at the age of 77 after complications following a fall in her San Francisco home. She was a co-founder of the now-defunct Cannabis Buyers Club and fought for years at the local, state, and national levels to legalize medical marijuana.

According to Michael Barbita, one of the directors of the Compassionate Care Center at 194 Church Street, someone apparently walked off with an urn containing some of Ms. Rathbun's ashes following a party on March 5. The ashes had been the centerpiece of a small shrine to Ms. Rathbun at the medical marijuana club. Most of Ms. Rathbun's ashes had been scattered off the Florida Keys, but some had been saved and placed in a blue and gold urn at the club, said Karen Masonheimer, one of Ms. Rathbun's caretakers.

Anyone with information is asked to call the club at (415) 865-9714.

'Petchitecture' Friday

An estimated crowd of more

than 1,000 people and their dogs are expected to be on hand for the annual "Petchitecture" event Friday, April 2 that benefits Pets Are Wonderful Support. The event, taking place from 7-10 p.m. at the Giftcenter Pavilion, 888 Brannan Street in San Francisco, showcases architectural and artistic creations, including doghouses and pet beds by some of the Bay Area's top architects and designers. Tickets start at \$65 per person. Fully licensed and vaccinated dogs (on leashes) are welcome. For more information, call (415) 677-8688.

Glide celebration Sunday

"The Pride of Palm Sunday" takes place at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church with a special celebration for the LGBT community and supporters at 2 p.m. on April 4. The special service is billed as people coming together with those who were prevented from being married, those who were married, and all who affirm love, equality, and spirit. It will feature the Glide Ensemble, the Change Band, and a blessing and affirmation by the Reverend Cecil Williams and Pastor Douglass Fitch to all couples. A reception will follow. People can RSVP online at www.glide.org or by calling (415) 674-6004.

Glide is also having Palm Sunday services at 9 and 11 a.m. The church is located at 330 Ellis Street, at Taylor.

Milk memorial meeting

The next meeting for the Harvey Milk City Hall memorial will be

Monday, April 5 at 7 p.m. at the San Francisco Pride Committee office, 1390 Market Street, Suite 903. The community is invited to attend. A group of concerned activists has been meeting for several months to coordinate plans for a permanent memorial to the late supervisor that would be installed in City Hall. For more information, call Joey Cain at (415) 336-4070.

Help needed for Easter dinner

Tenderloin Tessie Holiday Dinners is seeking volunteers for its Easter dinner event, set for Sunday, April 11 from 1-4 p.m. at the First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street at Geary. Organizer Tom Basch noted that volunteers are needed for set up (8-11 a.m.), serving (12:30-4 p.m.), and clean up (4-7 p.m.). This year's event, like all Tenderloin Tessie dinners, is free and open to anyone. The dinner is a sit-down affair that strives to create a family atmosphere and includes entertainment and more for those who attend. To volunteer, call Toby Nelson at (415) 255-7503.

HIV + PNP forum

The Positive Force program of the Stop AIDS Project will host a community forum on the critical issue of crystal meth use and HIV in the gay community. The forum, entitled "HIV + PNP: Personal Activism in Response to the Crystal Epidemic" takes place Thursday, April 8 at 6:30 p.m. at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Castro sweet shop closes

by Matthew S. Bajko

It turns out selling chocolate in the Castro can be anything but sweet. After 12 years Jeffrey Douglas is shuttering his Faerie Queen Chocolates near the Castro Theatre and heading for Canada, where he hopes business won't be so bitter.

Selling Leonidas Belgian chocolates and various flavors of fudge, Douglas opened his store thinking a whimsical theme and humorous names for his confections, like "Not tonight, I have a headache," would be a hit. His idea flopped.

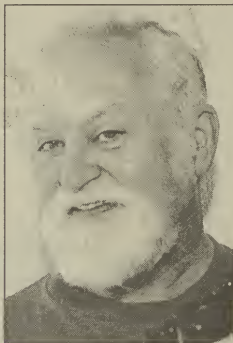
"It's a terrible business. The only time we were ever busy was maybe during Christmas," said Douglas, standing under a fairy princess sitting on a swing, wand in hand, watching over the store.

The tiny shoppe, with room for only six people at a time, will close for good today (Thursday, April 1). Part of the problem, said Douglas, was it never really attracted a gay clientele.

"The homophobia the store has faced has been enormous," he said.

The store's fairy theme, with its decor of bejeweled fairies painted on the walls, never sat well with the more macho elements of the Castro crowd.

The problem, as Douglas saw it, was gay men looked at the store's name and thought "how pejorative" or it harked back to "totally old faggotiness." He opted for the name, he said, as a way to



Jeffrey Douglas

take the sting out of what used to be a commonly used homophobic slur.

"The name was probably not a great idea. I learned a lesson," he said.

Perhaps if the store opened in November of 1971 instead of 1991 things would have turned out dif-

ferent, surmised Douglas.

"Someone said you opened the shop for guys of the 1970s without remembering they were all dead. This shop would have been celebrated by those people," he said. "It's just a different generation. The need for gaydar is less. They are more assimilated and they don't need to shop with people just because they are gay."

Apart from the lukewarm reception from the gay neighborhood, the store was a frequent target for armed robbers and street people who would shove feces through the door's mail slot and urinate in the doorway. Douglas said the shop has been set on fire, its windows scratched, and customers screamed at by vagrants.

"I am pretty burned out. We have really had it here, we had so much happen," said Douglas, who armed himself with pepper spray as protection.

One of the last straws for Douglas came six months ago when the Department of Public Works

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OPEN FORUM

Boxer's good move

Senator Barbara Boxer (D-California) did the right thing when she issued a statement late last month affirming her support of "full equality for all couples." And the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club definitely did the right thing when it realized that an obscure provision in its bylaws left it in a position to meet with Boxer's senior staffers to discuss her position on marriage equality. While Boxer stopped short of mentioning the word "marriage," she nonetheless retreated from comments made on her behalf in February that she believes marriage is reserved for a man and a woman. Also important, Boxer acknowledged that her earlier comments about California law being "fair and appropriate because it gives equal rights and responsibilities to all citizens" were inaccurate. "I understand current California law does not provide the full equality I initially thought it did," she now says.

The Milk Club, led by its new president, Michael Goldstein, took the lead by using its unique position to influence politicians. The club could have withdrawn its endorsement of Boxer for the November election because of a bylaws provision that calls on endorsed candidates to refrain from publicly commenting in favor of discriminatory policies. Goldstein wrote a letter to Boxer, which was followed by a meeting that was attended by four Milk Club board members and top Boxer aides, including her chief of staff and the director of her Northern California office. Milk Club members who attended the meeting told us that the senator's staff understood the issues and was "very apologetic" about the senator's earlier comments. For their part, Milk Club members realize Boxer is in a tough re-election fight this year. While her GOP opponent, former Secretary of State Bill Jones, typically has trouble raising money, he does have the support of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, which could translate into big bucks for Jones.

Moving Democratic politicians to the correct side of the marriage debate (sup-

porting full equality for same-sex couples at a minimum and, ultimately, getting them to support same-sex marriage) has become a tricky proposition for LGBT marriage advocates and straight supporters of full marriage equality. Last week, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi told Fox News' Neil Cavuto that she supports marriage for same-sex couples, though it took Cavuto several questions to get that answer. Pelosi, too, did the right thing.

Presumed Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry, however, is still sticking to his position that marriage should be between a man and a woman. We believe it's an indefensible position that is costing Kerry crucial early support in the LGBT community.

Kerry was cornered by a jogger in San Francisco Monday and again reiterated his opposition to same-sex marriage and he said it again Tuesday night on MTV's *Choose or Lose: 20 Million Questions for John Kerry*. According to a transcript, while he believes people are born gay, Kerry does not believe people are guaranteed the right to marry within their own gender. Kerry favors civil unions that provide full rights to same-sex couples.

So Kerry seems to be closer to Boxer's position than Pelosi's on marriage equality.

But it's this man-woman definition that bothers us - Kerry should consider adopting Boxer's position so that at least the hideous phrase "marriage is between a man and a woman" can be retired from his campaign lexicon. ▼



Editorial



AIDS czar is needed

by Patrick Monette-Shaw

News that Mayor Newsom eliminated from his budget the mayor's AIDS policy adviser - a.k.a. the AIDS czar position - should alarm our community. In addition to addressing policy issues, this position should perform greater oversight and accountability over San Francisco's vast AIDS infrastructure and bloated AIDS Office that recently numbered 170 employees.

Newsom's director of neighborhood services, Joe Caruso, indicated the job, if retained, would likely revert to a volunteer, unpaid position. Few people with HIV/AIDS, including people of color, can afford taking an unpaid, full-time job. Do city bureaucrats really expect a czar to drum up more HIV/AIDS funding without pay, despite more money potentially flowing into city coffers?

Newsom's rationale that the city budget can't afford an AIDS czar to provide oversight is specious, because the city has 100 information systems managers on its payroll costing \$11.8 million annually. Chopping one IS manager paid \$165,000 between salary and fringe benefits could fund an AIDS czar \$75,000 plus \$18,750 in benefits, leaving \$71,250 to rescue other programs destined for elimination from the Department of Public Health's budget.

Meanwhile, claiming it's too cash poor to have a paid AIDS czar, the city pays at least two fees for CAEAR Coalition membership; at \$5,500 each, there goes \$11,000! At minimum, two other coalition memberships are paid by AIDS organizations, bringing San Francisco's minimum to \$22,000 annually.

Long known for duplication of services (some HIV/AIDS clients have five case managers, instead of one coordinating all services), rather than having a single AIDS czar San Francisco has, at minimum, four directors of public policy: Jim Illig, Project Open

Hand's director of government relations; Ernest Hopkins, director of federal affairs and Dana Van Gorder, director of state and local affairs, both San Francisco AIDS Foundation employees; and Laura Thomas, Continuum's director of government grants and public policy. All three agencies receive CARE Act funding. Van Gorder, echoing others, claims while agencies, including SFAF, are "cutting services, [spending money for a czar] might not be ideal spending." Van Gorder fails to grasp the irony that salaries for four or more government affairs directors is, obviously, less-than-ideal spending.

Other AIDS organizations also have public policy directors, without an upward limit on how many San Francisco needs. We'd be much better off with a single AIDS czar; eliminating these three duplicative positions is a logical starting point toward providing clients with actual services as the priority.

The city alternately claims the czar's duties were picked up by either Caruso or DPH staff, yet public records reveal reports analyzing follow-up efforts following Mayor Brown's 1998 AIDS Summit have not been issued for over four years, since 1999, suggesting the czar duties weren't "picked up" adequately. Small wonder the city just lost \$4 million in HIV/AIDS funding. The loss is partly the result of past performance in our jurisdiction, since performance is a major factor evaluated during competitive review. Performance mistakes include San Francisco's failure to spend all funds during the year in which Congress appropriated they be spent ("unspent money" automatically lowers subsequent awards); DPH's failure to issue contracts to service providers expeditiously; our CARE Council's failure to ensure DPH "quickly" allocates funds; the council's failure to reallocate funds between

service categories to ensure all funds are spent in the year Congress intended; failure to complete revising the "severe need" definition, since severe need is a key focus during competitive judging; and possibly the failure of DPH to have met some federal deadlines.

Judged in the light of "past performance," these errors probably contributed to the funding loss, which an AIDS czar, performing oversight functions, may have been able to prevent.

A larger error looms: Despite discussing a goal to ensure service providers have the infrastructure to become Medi-Cal certified and understand Medi-Cal's treatment authorization process to move clients from CARE-funded programs onto Medi-Cal, the CARE Council has done virtually no follow-up to ensure it is the payor of last resort, as required by the CARE Act, rather than

payor of first convenience to providers who are not Medi-Cal certified. Had the council achieved this goal, the 12 ancillary CARE-funded service categories being eliminated might have been preserved - by reallocating primary care service savings gained from fully utilizing Medi-Cal - without now crying poor.

Newsom should heed his CARE Council's czar recommendation, not Illig's conflicted advice, given Illig is president of the HIV/AIDS Contractors Network vying for CARE funds. Clients shocked and awed over losing these services should demand Newsom immediately appoint a paid czar, to prevent additional errors leading to even greater loss of CARE Act funds next year. ▼

Patrick Monette-Shaw is an independent community observer and AIDS accountability research investigator.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Dufty's accomplishments

Jim Bishop's vituperative attack on District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty [*Mailstrom*, March 25] is filled with inaccuracies. Dufty is right to sustain Mayor Newsom's veto of Supervisor Chris Daly's deeply flawed anti-demolition legislation. Daly's initiative would have discouraged rental property owners from maintaining and improving their buildings and would have resulted in a deterioration of older housing. Perhaps Bishop wants San Francisco to look like the South Bronx. Furthermore, both Newsom and Dufty made sure tenants currently occupying subsidized apartments at Trinity Plaza would be given lifetime leases, including full rent control protections.

Bishop's allegation that Dufty's major supporters were wealthy landlords is ludicrous. In the general election, Dufty voluntarily limited campaign contributions to \$100 per individual and only accepted them from San Francisco residents. (The legal limit is \$500 and no residential restrictions apply.) In the runoff, he followed the same limitations, even though he could have received up to \$250 from individuals.

Dufty has been in office less than two years and has made great strides in improving the Castro. Under his leadership, last year's Halloween was a safe and well managed event, as opposed to the dangerous chaos the neighborhood previously experienced. When the Eureka Valley Recreation Center closed for much needed remodeling, he found a home for the queer youth program housed there at the LGBT Community Center. He is working with a residential hotel in the greater Castro to house homeless queer youth and has invited all interested parties to participate in the process and to air their concerns, which he will address.

Dufty supports home ownership programs and rent control and realizes the two are not in conflict. Dufty has a good working relationship with Mayor Newsom, who supported his candidacy for supervisor. When Newsom authorized same-sex weddings, Dufty was among the first elected officials to perform them.

District 8 as a whole, and the Castro in particular, is lucky to have a hard-working, intelligent, and honest supervisor like Dufty. He should be re-elected in a landslide.

Gustavo Serina
San Francisco

Housing proposal a 'win-win'

I am writing to respond to Jim Bishop's letter concerning Bevan Dufty and his votes relating to Trinity Plaza and Supervisor Daly's anti-demolition law. Contrary to Mr. Bishop's assertion, Bevan Dufty has been a zealous protector of the Trinity Plaza tenants. When Chris Daly's anti-demolition proposal was first made, Dufty voted to support the proposal, because he believed that the protections for the Trinity tenants were not adequate. Dufty wanted ironclad protections for the Trinity tenants, and as a result of his vote, the tenants now have that protection: the Trinity landlord has now promised to keep the Trinity tenants in the existing building until the first of the new development buildings is constructed, and then to move the existing tenants into the new building. None of the tenants will be evicted, and in fact, they will end up better off with brand new apartments, at the same rent.

Instead of criticism, Bevan Dufty should be praised for achieving a "win-win" for all concerned. The Trinity tenants avoid eviction, get brand new apartments, and no rent increase. The city gets 1,400 affordable rental units near jobs and on the Market Street transit corridor. The Trinity Plaza development, which has received rave reviews from architecture critics, will give a much-needed boost to the mid-Market area. Moreover, putting 1,400 new units on the market will also help drive down rents all over the city — this is one of the largest rental developments of its kind in the past 40 years, in a city that desperately needs more affordable housing.

Mike Sullivan, Chair, Plan C
San Francisco

Tilting at windmills

I didn't know David Pasquarelli. His reputation loomed large over the HIV/AIDS community in San Francisco, so if you volunteered anywhere in that community his name was familiar. There can be no doubt that he was a man of passion and idealism. His early death is made more tragic by the fact that his great passion was so misguided. Reading his obituaries in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and *B.A.R.* ["AIDS activist David Pasquarelli dies at 36," March 18], one was transported back 15 years in the war against AIDS. Suddenly PCP and CMV were in print again as contributing to the death of someone. How could that handsome and smiling face be gone so abruptly?

Like Don Quixote, Pasquarelli spread a message not realizing the message was false. He paid for his idealism and, sadly, his foolishness with his life. Now his lasting legacy is an object lesson on how not to

deal with HIV/AIDS. HIV is a virus, which causes AIDS. It randomly came to this country and first surfaced in the gay community. There's no conspiracy to a virus. There was no cabal. It was a freak and sad historical occurrence.

Venting anger on drug companies and AIDS service organizations for their actions or inactions, Pasquarelli thought he was helping his fellow human beings. He worked against the mainstream when his idealism and passion was needed in the mainstream. Drug companies need to be monitored, but they have created drugs that are helping people live longer lives. ASOs are not perfect organizations, but they educate, feed, clothe, house, and help countless individuals. Why couldn't he see that as a worthwhile goal?

His friends and family, who obviously loved him very much, need to step forward and tell the truth. David died needlessly. His jail stay did not help his health surely, but the decline of his immune system was caused by his not taking anti-HIV medicines that are available today. Anyone with HIV/AIDS needs to consult a doctor and make a plan that is best for them. To not avail yourself of western medicine is as foolish as it is to spurn alternative therapies. It is likely both are needed in the war against HIV.

I was born five years before David, got HIV eight years before him and am writing this letter, never having had an opportunistic disease yet. Will anti-HIV drugs hurt me? Possibly. But I surely know AIDS will kill me sooner. Now in a time of budget crunches when we need a passionate voice for HIV/AIDS, David Pasquarelli's voice is silent. And all for tilting at windmills.

Martin E. Hollick
San Francisco

'Good riddance'

How dare the Bay Area Reporter refer to nut case and alleged bomb thrower David Pasquarelli as an "AIDS activist"? Bobbi Campbell, Gary Walsh, and Bill Krause were AIDS activists. They each faced their own illnesses with both courage and conviction and worked tirelessly to better the government and community responses to the ravages of this disease. On the other hand, Pasquarelli was as destructive a force as there existed and only hindered this community's efforts to battle AIDS.

David Pasquarelli, good riddance.

John M. Farrell
San Francisco

Pasquarelli's defender

Michael Lauro, Stephen LeBlanc, I guess you think you've really accomplished something by writing the unkind letter about David Pasquarelli [*Mailstrom*, March 25]. I just think you are assholes, and I suspect your friends, if you have any, will secretly feel the same way.

The B.A.R. was irresponsible for printing this kind of letter.

Betty Best
San Francisco

A gratuitous slap

I was dismayed to read the B.A.R. editorial in the March 11 issue ["Reason to worry"]. I wasn't disturbed by the general idea that we should assure that the folks we respect hold Senator John Kerry accountable for his disappointing position on a Massachusetts state constitutional amendment; with that I agree. Rather, I was taken aback by the final sentence of the editorial, which seemed nothing more than a gratuitous slap to long-time champion of all things queer, Assemblyman Mark Leno. The sentence suggested that our community could better rely on Mayor Gavin Newsom as a true supporter than Mark Leno. Now, I too am indebted and thrilled at the courage, guts, and integrity of our new mayor, but why in the world is this an either/or choice? Why, simply because Leno is a supporter of Senator Kerry, would that negate his many enormous contributions to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender folks in this city and beyond? Why does a civil disagreement have to degenerate into erasure of Leno's track record of brave and groundbreaking support for the most marginalized in our community? Rarely has our community had a more tenacious and stalwart leader than Leno. The B.A.R. demeans what is an important political conversation by engaging in unwarranted and unfair personal attacks. Surely, you can do better.

Kate Kendall, Executive Director
National Center for Lesbian Rights
San Francisco

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Engendered species

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

There is a sea change going on. A paradigm shift, if you will.

Every day, my in-box is flooded by news articles and press releases about the state of gender variance in the world, from articles about eunuchs in India trying to take political power and create a legal "third sex" definition to Atlanta hiring a specialist to handle crimes against LGBT individuals. Many of these articles – except, of course, the religious right press releases – are often very trans positive, using the right pronouns and names, and avoiding some of the obvious issues that creep up in stories relating to transpeople.

Police officers in Pennsylvania, sailors in Spain, and people across the world are transitioning – and not losing their jobs, homes, or families.

High schools and colleges are working on policies and procedures to better serve their transgender students, including opening up additional same-sex bathrooms on campuses, while also asserting that students who do identify in a gender opposite their assigned birth sex are welcome in the existing facilities of their choosing.

Transgender people have begun to put together slick, professional events, like the all-transgender-cast "VDY" event in Hollywood last month, and the partnering of the first transgender gospel choir, Transcendence, with the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus in the latter's annual spring concert next month. Our own musical groups, actresses, playwrights, and others are taking their places in big ways, telling our own stories in ways that only we can offer.

I even spent last weekend in Iowa speaking to a college-level transgender event, where I was able to walk down the street without any trouble, even while wearing a "Transsexual Menace" T-shirt. The only comment I got on the shirt was from one person who liked my choice of attire. In the Moline airport, the woman sitting next to me and I got into a discussion about transgender violence issues – of which she was already aware.

Indeed, I think we are seeing something new happening. We are giving rise to a new way of thinking, a new vision, and perhaps even a new culture.

Needless to say, this did not happen overnight. The first modern vision of trans community and culture dates back 100 years ago, in Berlin, where trans patients

of Drs. Magnus Hirschfeld and Felix Abraham, among others, began to meet and congregate, discovering each other's talents while learning about themselves. During a few brief years, trans culture began to flourish in Germany – just prior to Brown-shirts charging into Hirschfeld's clinic, burning his research, and putting an end to things trans not only in Nazi Germany, but also around the world.

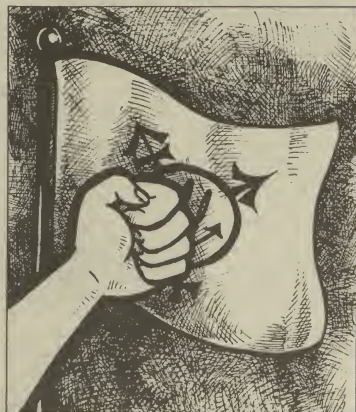
In latter part of the 20th century – during the times of Christine Jorgensen and Dr. Harry Benjamin's book, *The Transsexual*

Phenomenon – the community began to rise again, this time aided and aided by the growing "gay rights" movement of the post-Stonewall era. Much groundwork was laid, mostly in getting laws against public crossdressing struck down and getting laws for birth certificate changes enacted. Yet by the mid-1970s and the push to "normalize" the gay and lesbian movement, transgender people were again left in the cold.

So far, the third time seems to be the charm. In a push largely started by activist-minded transpeople in the first part of the 1990s, the then foreign-sounding concepts of transgender rights, transgender pride, and "transgender" itself were introduced. People began to think of what they lacked, and begun earnest efforts to see that change. Over the last decade we've brought into existence something new. Now we need to go where the activists before were not able: into a place of real community and society where transgender – if not yet fully accepted everywhere – is actively considered and appreciated.

There are still a great many things left to do. While great strides have been made, the real trek has largely yet to begin. With our victories, and those of our allies, comes the inevitable backlash.

The issue of gay marriage has killed one transgender inclusive LGBT rights bill, while a transwoman in Kansas has been arrested for giving "false testimony" to obtain a marriage license. The conservative pundits have even taken to saying, "If you allow



Christine Smith

gay rights, then what's next? Transgender marriage?" Never mind that such is already here and has been for decades – another product of mid-century transactivism. That is a victory that could end up lost amid the struggle for marriage equality.

The mainstream media has gotten far better on trans stories, yet there are still plenty of sleazy "sex swap" stories in the press, and more than a few articles willing to take a side by ill-considered pronouns and names. Some of those in the aforementioned Kansas case have been especially painful. "Junk science" still threatens us, trying to call us sick, perverted, or even unnatural. This threatens to erode our rights, and adds fuel to the religious rights attacks against us.

While rights are gained in some places – one example is the strong chance for the "Gender Recognition Bill" allowing for trans rights in the United Kingdom – other locales are seeing these rights erode. Current issues in Australia, for one, could lead to the outright banning of sex-change surgeries in the country. With all of our victories, we are still endangered.

And yes, we are still being killed with alarming regularity, most recently on March 3 in Washington, D.C.

Now is the time for us to take a stand, be out, be visible, and make it known that we will not go quietly. We need to be out there, telling our stories, writing our own books, proving our own science, and letting our legislators know that we demand our very rights to exist.

It's time to finally give rise to a transgender culture. ▼

Gwen Smith was really tempted to sneak an April Fools' joke in this space. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

Honoring older lesbians



Jane Philomena Cleland

Lesbians young and old gathered Sunday, March 28 at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley for the biennial "Pat Bond Old Dyke Awards" that honor lesbians over 60 who have contributed to the community but have not been recognized for their efforts. This year's winners are, from left: Cathy Cade, Marge Nelson, Avotcja, Barbara Jue, Ina May Murri and Stella Lopez-Armijo, and Judy Freespirit.

POLITICS

United Democrats aim at White House, Senate

by Wayne Friday

Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry** does not become the formal Democratic nominee for president until July, but he became the Democrat's standard-bearer by acclamation last Thursday when 2,500 Democratic loyalists packed into Washington's National Building Museum to raise \$11 million – a record for a single fundraiser by the party – and to present a united party behind the presumptive nominee.

With two former presidents – **Bill Clinton** and **Jimmy Carter** – leading the way, seven of Kerry's onetime rivals for the nomination (**Wesley Clark**, **Howard Dean**, **John Edwards**, **Dick Gephardt**, **Bob Graham**, **Joe Lieberman**, and **Al Sharpton**) joined other Democratic party leaders like former Vice President **Al Gore**, Senator **Edward Kennedy** (Massachusetts), **Jesse Jackson**, **Ethel Kennedy**, **George McGovern**, and **Walter Mondale**. The overflow crowd reportedly roared as former presidents Clinton and Carter held their arms aloft, joining with Kerry, Gore, and the seven rivals vanquished by the Massachusetts senator in a fast round of primaries from mid-January through early March.

Gephardt drew deafening applause, according to media accounts, when he praised Kerry and called **George Bush** "the worst of the five presidents I've served in Congress," adding that Bush "even makes me nostalgic for **Ronald Reagan**."

Gore recalled the 2000 election he narrowly lost to Bush, asking the excited crowd "Do you remember what you felt when the Supreme Court handed down its decision in the case called Bush versus Gore? I remember," he said. "I want you to draw again on all that energy and to channel it in support of John Kerry to elect him our next president."

Carter had a personal message for **Ralph Nader**, the independent candidate: "Don't risk costing the Democrats the White House this year as you did four years ago." Nader ran on the Green Party ticket in 2000.

Dean, who formally endorsed Kerry earlier that day, took several political shots at Bush, asking the crowd "Who would you rather have in charge of the defense of the United States of America: a group of people who have never served a day overseas in their life, or a guy who served his country honorably, has three Purple Hearts and a Silver Star?"

Only former Senator **Carol Moseley Braun** of Illinois, who was in San Francisco for a speaking engagement, and Ohio Representative **Dennis Kucinich** (D-Ohio) sent regrets they could not attend the event.

Democrats also now feel that they have an excellent chance of retaking the U.S. Senate in November. Republicans control the Senate 51-48, with one independent who votes with the Democrats for organizational purposes. Democrats need a net gain of only one or two seats to win control of



Mark Leno and Kamala Harris at BALIF dinner.

the Senate; one seat if the voters elect a Democrat as vice president along with Kerry in November, who would break ties in the Senate, and two if the Bush ticket is re-elected.

However, after his landslide victory in a crowded Democratic primary field in Illinois, state Senator **Barack Obama**, is already

the odds-on favorite to win a GOP-held U.S.

Senate seat in Illinois in November, and former Alaska Governor

Tony Knowles is now leading his GOP-incumbent opponent,

Senator **Lisa Murkowski** in that state.

In Oklahoma,

Representative **Brad Carson**, a moderate-to-conservative Democrat, is now expected to win the seat being given up by GOP Senator **Don Nickles**. Though it started out with somewhat of a disadvantage because of retiring Democratic senators in five Southern states, the Democratic Party now looks healthy in all of those states and is expected to hold the seats in all except Georgia.

The big break for Democrats came, however, when Colorado Republican U.S. Senator **Ben Nighthorse Campbell**, expected to easily win re-election, suddenly announced he would not run for re-election. Democrats are now given a better-than-even chance of picking up the open Colorado Senate seat with the candidacy of popular Colorado Attorney General **Ken Salazar**, who now leads all potential Republicans in that state; even Colorado Governor **Bill Owens**, considered the GOP's strongest contender for the seat, declined to run against Salazar.

Politics and people

Caught Mayor **Gavin Newsom** on *The Charlie Rose Show* last week from New York City and the mayor was as smooth as they get. And to the dude who called last week – twice – leaving a message on my machine that my March 25 column about Mayor Newsom was "too praising of the guy, nothing but a— kissing" you know what? I don't give a damn what you think; you don't like the column, don't read it. [Editor's note: there was a mistake in last week's column. The sentence describing Newsom's political calculations should have read: "Clearly, political calculation is not what drives Newsom." We regret the error.]

Not that Assemblyman **Mark**

Leno (D-San Francisco) has anything to worry about (he got the highest vote on the entire county ballot in March) but the Log Cabin Republicans of San Francisco have this to say about his November GOP opponent, **Gail Neira**: "[She] is out of the mainstream, and we view her as very hostile to gay rights; we cannot allow her to carry the banner for the party."

Assemblyman **Mark Leno** was honored, along with Assemblywoman **Jackie Goldberg** (D-Los Angeles) at last week's annual Bay Area Lawyers for Individual Freedom dinner. San Francisco District Attorney **Kamala Harris** gave the keynote address. Leno and Goldberg received the organization's Legal Services Award. Immigration Equality received BALIF's Community Service Award.



Laura Spanjian

In other local political news, **Laura Spanjian** was elected the new co-chair of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club last week. Spanjian replaces **Theresa Sparks**, who had served two terms, and will join co-chair **Rich Kowalewski**, who was elected to his second term. Spanjian, who was the legislative aide to former Supervisor **Leslie Katz**, said she wants to focus the club on electing more LGBT leaders, particularly lesbians, in San Francisco.

Even Republican members of the Assembly have high praise for the new speaker, **Fabian Nunez** (D-Los Angeles). After a revolving door of relatively anonymous speakers, Nunez, 37, could hold the Assembly's most powerful post until 2008, when term limits will end his tenure. Democrats now hold 48 of 80 Assembly seats, and it will be part of Nunez's job to make sure they maintain that edge in this year's elections.

And how was your week? ▼

Got a political tip? E-mail WayneFridaySF@aol.com

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Jim Hedges

Gay marriage and child-raising

by Dale Carpenter

Many opponents of gay marriage do so on the grounds that marriage exists primarily for raising children, and that gay couples cannot satisfy this purpose. A strong version of this point holds that gay parents are incompetent to raise children, and perhaps are even dangerous to them (the "competence argument"). A milder version claims that opposite-sex married couples are optimal for child-raising (the "optimality argument"). The competence argument is factually unsupported and contravened by the laws of every state. The optimality argument may or may not be correct, but either way is irrelevant to the controversy over gay marriage.

The competence argument maintains that children raised by gay parents, as compared to those raised by heterosexual parents, are

at higher risk emotionally and cognitively; that they are more apt to be confused about their sexual and gender identity; and that they are more likely to be molested. Gays, therefore, ought not to raise children.

Since marriage includes a presumptive right to have and raise children, either through conception or adoption, gays ought to be denied marriage. The happiness and needs of gay couples do not justify putting children at risk.

If the competence argument is correct, states should bar gays altogether from parenting. Yet while judges sometimes use homosexuality as one factor among many in making custody and visitation determinations, no state categorically bars gays from raising children. Only one state, Florida, prohibits gays from adopting children. However, even Florida permits gays to raise their own biological children, to obtain custody of

children, and to be long-term foster parents.

Contrary to the competence argument, the strong trend in the country is toward the relaxation of rules disfavoring gay parenting. About 30 states now recognize two-parent adoptions in which same-sex partners both adopt a child. Gay parenting is common. Gay parents in this country are now raising more than one mil-

lusion. The minor observed differences between children raised by gay parents and those raised by straight parents "either favor children raised by lesbian parents, are secondary effects of social prejudice, or represent 'just a difference' of the sort democratic societies should respect and protect." While more work must be done to shore up these conclusions, a strong provisional judg-

by same-sex married couples.

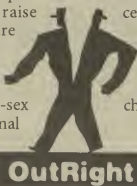
Let's assume, for the sake of argument, that opposite-sex married couples provide the optimal environment for child-raising. That is still no argument against gay marriage. First, even if a primary purpose of marriage is to facilitate child-raising, it is not an indispensable purpose, as the many childless married couples can attest.

Second, gay marriage won't take children from mothers and fathers who want to raise them. Consider: there is no shortage of children in the country. There are not enough married couples to raise them all. That's why states allow sub-optimal parenting by singles (gay and straight) and unmarried couples (gay and straight). Almost everyone agrees these sub-optimal arrangements are better than orphanages or foster care, where the outcomes for children are often terrible.

No serious person advocates removing all children from gay parents. So whether or not gay marriage is allowed, children will continue to be raised by gay parents. The only question is, will these children be raised in homes that may enjoy the protections and benefits of marriage? If it's better for children to be raised by a married opposite-sex couple than by an unmarried opposite-sex couple, it would surely be better for children to be raised by a married same-sex couple than by an unmarried same-sex couple. That's the relevant comparison.

If it's really a concern for children that's motivating them, opponents of gay marriage ought to rethink their conclusion. They ought to be pounding the table for gay marriage. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indagayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



The only question is, will these children be raised in homes that may enjoy the protections and benefits of marriage?

lion children. According to the 2000 census, about one-fourth of all same-sex-couple households include children.

The available studies, while not methodologically perfect, seriously undermine the competence argument. While the studies may not yet prove that gays are just as good as heterosexuals at raising children, they point strongly to the conclusion that gays are at least minimally competent parents.

In a review of 21 studies of gay parenting, sociologists Judith Stacey and Timothy Biblarz concluded, "every relevant study to date shows that parental sexual orientation per se has no measurable effect on the quality of parent-child relationships or on children's mental health or social ad-

ment can be made that the competence argument is factually baseless.

A milder version of the child-raising objection to gay marriage maintains that even if gays should not be completely barred from parenting, married heterosexual couples should be strongly preferred. This optimality argument holds that, all else being equal, children do best when raised by a married mother and father.

In contrast to the competence argument, there is at least some empirical basis for the optimality argument. There is substantial evidence that children raised in married households are on average happier, healthier, and wealthier than children raised by single parents or by unmarried cohabiting parents. This probably has something to do with the legal and social support marriage provides.

Still, this is shaky empirical support for the optimality argument. There is no good study comparing children raised in married households with children raised by same-sex couples. And, because gay marriage is forbidden, there is no study comparing children raised by opposite-sex married couples with children raised

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Chronicle photographer speaks out

by Matthew S. Bajko

Speaking for the first time publicly, *San Francisco Chronicle* photographer Liz Mangelsdorf disputed the notion that she could no longer remain objective covering the same-sex marriage story because she had wed her spouse, *Chronicle* City Hall reporter Rachel Gordon.

"Any personal vested interest we had in the story has not changed from when we were a committed lesbian couple who wanted to get married to a lesbian couple who got married," Mangelsdorf told a gathering of gay and lesbian media professionals last Wednesday, March 24.

With Gordon sitting in the front row, Mangelsdorf said the couple felt let down by the newspaper's decision to pull the couple off the story after they wed last month.

"We respect that decision but disagree with that decision," she said. "We had hoped they would stand up for us after we got married."

Instead, the paper banned the two veteran journalists from covering the story, igniting a firestorm of criticism from both the local queer community and leaders of the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association. Steven Petrow, NLGJA national president, said he fears what the repercussions will be for other queer journalists working in cities with less gay-supportive populaces.

"How is this going to play out across the country? I am concerned other journalists will pay a heavier price," said Petrow, who took part in the panel discussion before the local NLGJA chapter.

Chronicle managing editor Robert Rosenthal defended the paper's decision, saying reporters learn in Journalism 101 they are not allowed to become part of a story they are covering.

"The real issue here is the question of two people getting involved in the core of the story. In this case that is getting married," he said. "It was not about thinking they were going to change their coverage because they got married. It's about

getting involved in the act."

Rosenthal revealed that the paper did not come to its decision easily, saying the process "was not comfortable" for those involved. And he repeated earlier assertions by *Chronicle* editors that the decision had nothing to do with the two women's sexual orientation.

"It is not a question of are they fair or have bias or an agenda in their work. It never came up in my mind that their sexuality was an issue or that they were a couple," he said. "It was about them getting involved, specifically that they got married."

Mangelsdorf said she and Gordon opted to wed in order to secure the same protections for themselves as the other same-sex couples who married.

"We felt it was a legal right granted to us," she said. "Us getting married was a very private act. The last thing we wanted was for it to be a public issue or for it to become a public issue."

Noting that both women studied journalism ethics in college and engaged in lengthy debates with their colleagues and editors over the issue, Mangelsdorf said neither she nor Gordon viewed their getting married in black or white terms.

"There are a lot of gray areas here," she said.

Petrow said his organization's members are divided on the question of whether the women were right in marrying or should have decided to wait until the legal questions had been resolved.

"If they understand the marriage was meant to be a political act or civil disobedience than it is an issue. If it was a private act done at home then it isn't a problem," he said.

When asked if it would have mattered if the women had gone to Canada to wed or to Massachusetts this May when gay marriage becomes legal in that state, Rosenthal said he didn't know how to answer the question.

"This is new uncharted ground right now," he said.

The paper did discuss adding a disclaimer to Gordon's stories, but Rosenthal said there was some



Liz Mangelsdorf

issue over how long such a disclaimer would need to appear with her coverage. Mangelsdorf said the paper also had asked Gordon if she wanted to write a personal account of getting married.

But she said "that is not something Rachel is interested in writing. She is a beat reporter and not a columnist."

As for why the newspaper waited a week before writing about the decision to remove the women from the story, Rosenthal said it was a matter of respecting the couple's privacy.

"Normal personnel decisions are not discussed. Part of it is to try to respect their privacy," he said. "Certainly it became a news story. We thought it would. It's very difficult for any newspaper to try to figure out how to write about itself." ▼

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The view entering Guerneville includes its picturesque Main Street

B.A.R. travel special, part one

Rolling on the river

by Ed Walsh

When are these gays going to leave?" asked a big-haired Texas woman, husband in tow, as she entered the tourist information storefront of the Russian River Chamber of Commerce in Guerneville last summer.

"They're not, honey," answered Opal Pullaro, a 60ish, heterosexu-

al, but very gay-friendly employee at the information desk.

The chamber's openly gay executive director, Steve Fogel, recounted that story to the *Bay Area Reporter* with amusement last week. The Texas couple's visit coincided with the Lazy Bear Weekend, which has morphed into the Lazy Bear Week, and is the Russian River area's biggest tourist draw. Fogel noted that this year, all hotel rooms in Guerneville and surrounding areas have already sold out for the event, scheduled to begin July 14. The largest and oldest predominately gay resort in the area, Fife's, sold out for the event on January 2, just three hours after it began to accept reservations.

The growing popularity of Lazy Bear, along with other special Guerneville events, including the Women's Weekends, April 30 and September 17, and Sundance

Weekend, August 7, are symbolic of the renaissance of the Russian River as a gay getaway, gay business owners say.

Guerneville, an easy 90-minute drive north of San Francisco, is a world apart from the city but it has long been the city's playground. Fogel estimates that in 1940, the area boasted 14,000 hotel rooms and cabins. Now it has about 3,000, as many of the former vacation cabins have been taken over by permanent residents. In 1978, Peter Pender took over the old Murphy's family resort, fixed it up, and reopened it as Fife's, the area's first gay resort. Others soon followed, making Guerneville the gay getaway capital of Northern California.

Most of the gay resorts are flush now with new owners, new money, and a renewed enthusiasm for returning Guerneville to the

page 14 ►

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1 Positive Force Focus Group Thursday, April 1, 5:30pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro @ 18th St A guest speaker from AIDS Housing Alliance will be speaking about housing/rental issues specific to the HIV-positive person. Come share your thoughts, feelings, and get some useful information.

6 PLUS Check-In Tuesday, April 6, 6:30pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro @ 18th St Still feeling the glow of the last PLUS seminar? Come and reunite with other PLUS participants in this social and informal drop in group. It's a great way to stay connected and get support.

7 Positive Force Book Club Wednesday, April 7, 6pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro @ 18th St Join the guys of Positive Force at their ongoing, bi-monthly Book Club. Stay up on the latest reading while connecting with other HIV+ gay and bi men. Call 415.865.0790 x305 to get current book info.

8 HIV + PNP Personal Activism in Response to The Crystal Epidemic Thursday, April 8, 6:30pm @ The SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St @ Octavia St Join us for an evening of discussion on the topic of community activism in response to the crystal meth epidemic in SF and its relationship to HIV transmission. How have members of our community stepped up to the plate to be a part of the solution? Come hear how some community leaders are tackling the issue. This will be a moderator-lead panel discussion.

15 Cafe Poz Thursday, April 15, 1pm @ Castro Country Club, 4058 18th St Ready for a new afternoon routine? Make a date with other HIV+ men at Cafe Positive. The daytime social support event that is open to everyone. Gab with the guys about the latest treatment news flash and what you think is around the corner. Beverages and light lunch are on us.

16-17 Soul in the Woods
Required Orientation: Friday, April 16, 7pm @ STOP AIDS Office, 2128 15th St @ Market St This mandatory orientation features safety tips, meet and greet and yummy treats. RSVP for this event: 415.865.0790 x305.

The Great Escape: Saturday, April 17, 9am-3pm Join us for an amazing day in the Presidio. Get outdoors and share your experiences with all kinds of POZ men! Rain or shine, we'll provide the gear to keep you safe, warm and dry.

21 H Café Wednesday, April 21, 6:30pm @ H Café, 17th St @ Sanchez St Feeling the mid-week blues? Need a way to help finish off the month on an up note? Well, H Café is the place to be. The guys of Positive Force are out "en mass" at this great event.

28 Positive Force Book Club Wednesday, April 28, 6pm @ STOP AIDS Castro Office, 539 Castro @ 18th St Join the guys of Positive Force at the Positive Book Club. Stay up on the latest reading while connecting with other HIV+ gay and bi men. To find out what book we are reading call 865-0790 x305.

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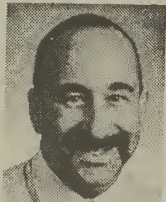
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Russian River

◀ page 12

popularity it saw in the 1980s. They're banking on its natural beauty as part of Sonoma County's wine country and its nightlife.

"We call ourselves the wild side of the wine country," Fife's marketing and events director, Diane Maldauer, told the B.A.R. "But you also have the wild side in terms of nature. People don't know all that there is to do up here, canoeing, hiking, biking, and kayaking," she added.

Where to stay

A wide range of resorts, hotels, cabins, and vacation rental homes offers something for every traveler. Room rates run from \$40 for a small cabin room at the bucolic Highlands Resort, to \$345 for the most expensive suite at the upscale Appplewood Inn.

Fife's (16467 River Road, 800-7-FIFES-1) is a super-complex that sits on 15 acres, with 55 units, up to 100 campsites, a restaurant and bar, and one of the best gyms in the area. Fife's current owner, Michael Clark, took over in January 2002 and immediately shut it down for nearly four months for renovation. He's managed to maintain the 99-year-old resort's rustic charm while keeping it comfortable and up to date. Day-trippers — those just up for the day — are welcome to use the resort grounds, pool, and beach for free but if you're not staying there, use of the gym is \$5/day or \$35/month.

Another of the area's best-known gay resorts is the Russian River Resort, or Triple-R (16390 Fourth Street; 800-41-RESORT). It sports 24 motel-style units that surround its pool, bar, and restaurant. This resort is a great spot if you like being around a lot of people and in the middle of the party. The crowd is overwhelmingly gay men, but its owner, Jeff Bridges, emphasizes that everyone is welcome. Like Fife's, day trippers are also welcome. But

if you want to stay overnight, book early, rooms fill up fast.

Triple R's newest neighbor is The Woods, (16484 Fourth Street; 1-800-767-1759.) It used to be called Xen. The new name officially begins this week and is in nostalgic tribute to the defunct resort complex on Armstrong Woods Road. It includes 18 units, many with balconies, fireplaces, and full kitchens. The resort's new owner, Michael Preaseau, like many of the gay resort owners, first came to Guerneville as a getaway but liked it so much that he decided to stay. He plans to infuse The Woods with at least \$100,000 worth of improvements. By the way, Preaseau's mother, Verna Preaseau, took over the business he used to run, Russian River Concierge (1-800-403-1744). It's a great one-stop reservation and general information service and includes a number of vacation rental homes in the area. Verna is a busy lady. She's also president of the Russian River Chamber of Commerce. Day-trippers are also welcome at The Woods.

One of the most upscale of the resorts in Guerneville is the Retreat Resort and Spa (14711 Armstrong Woods Road, 866-73-RELAX). Its 12 units are beautifully decorated and impeccably maintained. The resort itself evokes a lush, luxurious feel. The grounds feature a backyard with a bridge over its own private creek. The rooms center on a hot tub and pool. The resort employs a full-time aesthetician and features a complete spa with a menu of options including massage, facials, and spray-on tanning. Plans are in the works to open a wine bar on May 15. The bar will be open to the general public, giving bar patrons the perfect opportunity to sample the resort.

Highlands Resort (14000 Woodland Drive; 707-869-0333) is beautifully situated on a hill in downtown Guerneville. Although it is a close walking distance to everything downtown, it sits in a wooded oasis and feels like a world apart. It includes 16 units with space for 20 campsites. The complex features one of the biggest pools in the area and is clothing optional. It promotes itself as a gay and lesbian resort that is "straight friendly." Day use is available for \$5 weekdays and \$10 on the weekends.

The Inn at The Willows (15905 River Road; 1-800.953.2828) is a 10-room guesthouse overlooking the river. Its expansive river front grounds are also open for campers and its meadow is a perfect spot for the commitment ceremonies that it often hosts. A couple of the rooms are being converted into a spa that will offer a full range of services. Day use is \$10.

The historic Village Inn (20822 River Boulevard, Monte Rio; 1-800-303-2303) in nearby Monte Rio provides spectacular views of the river. Although not marketed as a "gay resort," the gay couple who own it estimate that about half of its guests are gay. It's undoubtedly one of the most beautiful buildings on the river and was the setting for the movie, *Holiday Inn*.

The area's poshest resort, Appplewood Inn (13555 Highway

116; 1-800-555-8509) features a spa, pool, hot tub, bar, and restaurant. Each room is so beautifully decorated that it is like a work of art by itself. A gay couple that owns the 19-room inn has put it on the market for \$6.5 million and hopes to sell it before winter.

Another of the Guerneville's popular gay-friendly resorts is the Creekside Inn and Resort, (16180 Neeley Road; 1-800-776-6586). It features a 50-50 gay-straight mix. Of course, the gay quotient rises during special gay events.

Fern Grove Cottages (16650 River Road; 707-869-8105) sits on a hillside across from Fife's. Its 20 units are popular with folks who want to be close to the party but not in the party. Many of its cabins include skylights and whirlpool tubs.

Bars

One of the first things you see when you enter downtown Guerneville is the marquee sign for Club FAB (16135 Main Street), the biggest gay nightclub north of the Golden Gate that's on the site of the historic River Theater. The club is most famous for its foam parties and is jam packed during gay river special events. For a complete club schedule, check out its Web site, www.clubfab.com, or call 707-869-5708.

Guerneville year-round favorites include, of course, the Rainbow Cattle Company, (16220 Main Street), the Russian River Eagle (16225 Main Street), and the poolside bar at the Triple-R (16390 Fourth Street). In addition to its year-round bar and restaurant, Fife's hosts its legendary Bunkhouse dance club on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer.

Restaurants

The Coffee Bazaar (14045 Armstrong Woods Road) in downtown Guerneville is a great place not only for coffee but for a quick meal. Bob Young, a well-known Guerneville Realtor, and the owner of the Russian River Eagle owns it.

The restaurants in Fife's, The Village Inn, and Appplewood Inn are among the best dining you'll find anywhere in California. The Texas barbecue, Aussie Tims, opened in December as part of the Triple-R complex.

Getting there

From San Francisco: Take 101 north past downtown Santa Rosa, exit at River Road and make a left on River Road, heading west for about 17 miles. River Road turns into Guerneville's Main Street when you hit downtown.

FYI

Russian River Chamber of Commerce, www.RussianRiver.com, 707-869-9000 or 1-877-644-9001. For lesbian-specific event information contact RAGS (River Area Gal Society) at www.rivergals.com. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Milk Club

◀ page 1

Francisco Chronicle in a story on the gay marriages that were then under way in San Francisco. According to the bylaws, candidates endorsed by the club are expected to refrain from taking public positions in favor of policies denying rights to any person on the basis of gender identity or sexual identity or oppose propositions to secure basic rights for said groups.

After Boxer's comments appeared in the Chronicle and club officers researched the bylaws, it was decided to ask for a meeting with the senator's staff.

"We were informed by other members of the club that [Boxer's] language goes against the club's bylaws," Goldstein said, adding that the president of the club is charged with notifying the candidate and getting a written response within 24 hours. Goldstein explained that the board allowed itself and the senator's office more time to reach a resolution.

Boxer released a statement last week.

"I support full equality for all couples, regardless of the gender of the individuals. I believe that both different sex and same-sex couples should have the same rights, protections, and benefits as well as the same responsibilities under state and federal law. I understand that current California law does not provide the full equality I initially thought it did," Boxer stated.

She added that she has been a "consistent advocate" for equal rights throughout her career and that she opposes the proposed federal constitutional amendment to prohibit same-sex marriage.

Goldstein had praise for Boxer's staff members who met with them, including Chief of Staff Sam Chapman and Adrienne Bousian, the director of the senator's Northern California office. Bousian is now working for the Boxer campaign.

Late Tuesday, Chapman issued a statement confirming the meeting.

"I did in fact meet with members of the Harvey Milk Club to hear their thoughts and concerns on the issue, and I was pleased to meet with them and convey their views to the senator. In response, the senator issued a statement which is accurately quoted in their release," Chapman said, referring to the Milk Club's announcement.

"The meeting went fairly well. They were highly apologetic," Goldstein said this week. "We explained how hurtful this was for both the club and, we understood, Senator Boxer. We were the first club to support her in 1982. In almost all cases she has voted the right way."

Goldstein, who just took over as Milk Club president in January, said the bylaws provision is seldom used.

Howard Wallace, a longtime gay labor leader and a Milk Club

vice president who also attended the meeting, told the B.A.R. that Boxer's statement was "a step forward."

"I wish she had addressed the comment she made about marriage being between a man and a woman," Wallace said.

Wallace was referring to a comment in the same Chronicle story by Boxer spokesman David Sandretti, who said that the senator "supports current California law, establishing domestic partnerships with the full rights and responsibility of marriage, and she also agrees with the law's definition that marriage is between a man and a woman."

"Her aide in D.C. took it a step further," Goldstein said, referring to Sandretti's comments. "That's where we became infuriated."

Goldstein acknowledged that the club would have been happier "to see stronger language mentioning 'marriage.'"

"But we also understand that she's running against a formidable candidate or at least against formidable forces," Goldstein said, referring to Jones and his support from the Republican Party.

Debra Walker, a former Milk Club president and currently vice

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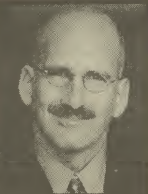
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TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 7PM @ STOP AIDS Project,
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PART 2
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 7PM @ STOP AIDS Project, 2128 15th St @ Market St

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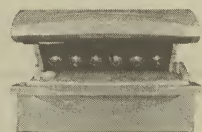


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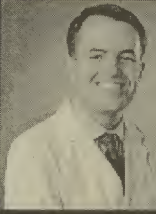


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Syphilis cases stabilize

by Matthew S. Bajko

With April designated as Sexually Transmitted Disease Awareness Month, city health officials are stepping up efforts to educate gay men about the need to get regularly tested for STDs. And while education campaigns for the last several years have focused on syphilis, officials are also trying to educate gay men about chlamydia and rectal gonorrhea.

As part of the campaign, screenings for chlamydia and rectal gonorrhea are being added at Magnet, the gay men's health clinic in the Castro, and at San Francisco General Hospital. The health department is also rolling out a big campaign this month to ensure providers have syphilis partner prevention packs for their patients.

"We have a long way to go to get men into a testing mode where they get regular STD tests and checkups. Men not in routine care who think they are not at risk really need to get a checkup," said Dr. Jeffrey Klausner, director of STD prevention for the Department of Public Health. "The HIV infected community is doing a lot better in that regard. Patients get a lot more routine STD tests."

Part of the problem, said Klausner, is that compared to women, men are less likely to seek regular care and checkups.

"We still need to work very hard at that level to get people who are sexually active with multiple partners to a point where they get regular checkups," said Klausner.

There is some good news regarding the city's continuing fight to control syphilis. According to data for the first two months of 2004, the number of adult syphilis cases is slightly less than during the same period last year, 107 cases compared to 121 cases in 2003. As for new syphilis cases, the city recorded 51 primary and secondary cases so far this year compared to 63 during the first two months of 2003 and saw 34 early latent cases this year compared to 38 cases last year.

"It absolutely looks great com-

pared to last year. The city is no longer in crisis mode with syphilis," said Dr. Charlotte Kent, chief of the STD epidemiology unit, who pointed to rising levels of awareness about STDs for the downward trend in cases.

"It is more to the fact that people are getting tested and diagnosed and not as much as a reservoir of infection," she said. "I don't see evidence to predict huge behavior changes to affect infections."

Writing in the February 3, 2004 monthly STD report, Klausner noted that "2003 did not see the continued rapid escalation of the syphilis epidemic" and in fact the city saw a "relatively steady decline" in early syphilis cases since April 2003. Instead of the doubling of syphilis cases the city has seen each year since 1999, there was only a 10 percent increase in 2003.

However, those numbers are still too high for health officials

and make San Francisco a metropolitan area with one of the highest syphilis rates in the country.

"We would like to get back to where we were in 1998, with maybe a dozen cases of syphilis in gay and bisexual men," said Klausner. "We still have a long way to get back to the 1998 level."

The city also saw positive downward trends in the number of gonorrhea and chlamydia cases, which were "relatively stable or declined in 2003 compared to 2002," wrote Klausner in the report. Gonorrhea cases declined 15 percent last year while chlamydia remained stable.

Yet Kent said she is concerned about a sudden spike in male rectal gonorrhea this winter. In January and February, the city saw 72 cases compared to 40 during the same two months in 2003.

"I made sure those numbers were correct because I was really

next page ►

Events during STD Awareness Month

compiled by Matthew S. Bajko

With April designated STD Awareness Month, the health department's STD Prevention and Control Branch, the Stop AIDS Project, and Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, have joined to promote several "Tune-Up" events this month.

The effort is focused on getting guys tuned up and tested for sexually transmitted diseases. The groups are offering free and confidential STD testing at various locations.

The following is a list of activities; the public is invited to attend.

- April 2, 1 to 6 p.m.: Stop AIDS members will be at the adult bookstore Folsom Gulch, 947 Folsom Street, in SOMA to answer questions and promote STD testing.
- April 6, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.: Tune Up at Trannysack (The Stud), 399 9th Street. Anyone who takes advantage of free STD testing will receive reduced admission of \$4.
- April 21, 8 to 10 p.m.: Magnet "Smack Drip," 4122 18th Street. Open mike with "Healthy Penis" and "Phil," the characters from the city's Healthy Penis campaign. Individuals are invited to share their STD stories.
- April 24, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.: Tune Up in the Castro at Magnet, 4122 18th Street.
- April 29, 10 p.m. to 1 a.m.: Tune Up in SOMA at Powerhouse, 1347 Folsom. ▼

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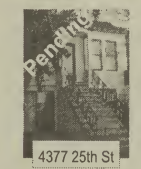
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12/02

OBITUARIES

William Richard "Rick" Meier-Windes



long illness.

Rick Windes, born in West Germany, January 21, 1955, departed this life in the presence of his beloved partner of twenty-three years, Joe "Cris" Allen Meier-Windes, on March 14, 2004, after a

Gay Games I in 1982. He volunteered tirelessly on behalf of the sport he loved. Rick officiated at local, regional, national and international meets as a Stroke and Turn Judge, Starter and Meet Referee. He actively participated in club boards, regional and national committees, and conventions in the administration end of swimming since 1986. Rick received numerous awards, among them: two Cable Car Awards; two Pacific Masters Swimming Contributor of the Year Awards; and one each for Apex Award, United States Masters Swimming Donnelly Service Award, IGLA Service Award, San Francisco Recreation and Parks Service Award, and San Francisco Tsunami Swim Club Service Award.

His many devoted friends and family will sadly miss him. He is survived by family members including his father Col. William S. Windes, USAF (Ret.), his sisters Michele and John Earnest, Robin and Brad McMurray, his aunt and uncle Betty and Tom Willis and Richard Hill, and his many cousins, among them Bill Willis, Rachel, John Michael and

Scott Earnest, Colleen, Conner and Calvin McMurray. Rick's mother Virginia Windes preceded him in death seven years earlier.

A special thanks to the staffs and volunteers for their support at Coming Home Hospice and Open Hand. A memorial award will be established in Rick's name to honor the fastest distance swimmer at the IGLA championships. Make checks payable to: San Francisco Masters, and mail to San Francisco Tsunami, 584 Castro St., #145, San Francisco, CA 94114-2594. In the memo section write: Rick Windes.



Alfonso Carlos Mendez

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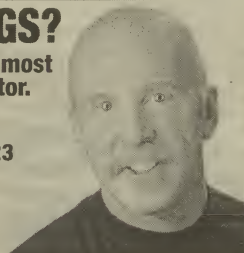
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Syphilis

◀ previous page

alarmed by them. It is something that goes through cycles," said Kent, who noted the 41 cases seen in January was the highest number of cases the city has had in one month in over a year.

The reason for the concern is, similar to syphilis: both STDs can make it easier for a person to acquire HIV. Chlamydia and gonorrhea can both cause an inflammation in the rectum. Health officials warn that if a negative person who has one of the STDs is exposed to HIV then they are three to five times more likely to get infected. Both STDs are easy to treat with antibiotics.

At City Clinic, any men who report receptive anal sex in the past six months are tested for chlamydia and gonorrhea. Among the men tested in 2003, 8.8 percent had rectal chlamydia and 7.5

percent had rectal gonorrhea.

While those are "very similar" to 2002 percentages, Kent said, "it is a pretty high percentage. Less than 4 percent would be better. One of the things that is happening is the percentage of men tested who have these rectal infections is pretty stable but men coming in to be tested has gone up so the actual number of infections we are detecting is going up."

As an example, in December 2001 city clinic saw 6,634 gay and bi men, in December 2002 that number rose to 8,570 and last December it climbed to 10,032.

"It definitely does correspond to the Healthy Penis campaign. Syphilis is beginning to plateau because more people are getting tested," said Kent. "It will take a while for rectal gonorrhea and chlamydia to flatten out and plateau. I have no idea what it will take year wise."

Part of the problem in controlling gonorrhea is the STD can be

asymptomatic and some providers do not test for rectal infections, and many men never get tested for chlamydia, said Kent.

"The penis is a less common site for infection for both gonorrhea and chlamydia," she said. "There is not much gonorrhea in the penis among asymptomatic men, less than 1 percent have gonorrhea. Contrast that to gonorrhea in the rectum and almost 7 percent who have no symptoms have gonorrhea in the rectum."

As the city has put more focus on syphilis, it is also seeing more gonorrhea and chlamydia infections in gay men. Kent predicted more attention will be given to all three STDs, and she said gay men should ensure they get tested for them.

"We have to educate providers. They are more aware about syphilis in some ways," she said. "The gay community should also be aware, they should be asking their providers for these tests." ▼

Milk Club

◀ page 15

chair of the LGBT Caucus of the California Democratic Party, also attended the meeting. She said it became obvious that Boxer's staff members had been considering the issue and had received Goldstein's letter.

"As we got there it was clear they had been thinking about it. The first thing they said was that Senator Boxer apologized for being misinformed of California law," Walker said. "Clearly, she changed her position."

Molly McKay with Marriage Equality California told the B.A.R. that she was very pleased with the news.

"This is huge," McKay said, adding that MECA had talked about Boxer's February comments

with Milk Club members. "It's a very different position and I'm really proud of the fact that she restated her position."

Pelosi's shift

In a related move, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-San Francisco), in an interview on the Fox program *Your World with Neil Cavuto* on March 24, said she supports same-sex marriage. It marked the first time Pelosi had publicly commented on the matter since San Francisco started issuing the marriage certificates to same-sex couples on February 12. When Cavuto first asked her about gay marriage, Pelosi said she was "completely committed" to defeating the proposed constitutional amendment backed by President Bush that would prohibit same-sex marriage. Under additional questioning from

Cavuto, however, Pelosi acknowledged that same-sex couples should be allowed to marry.

"Can same-sex couples marry?" Cavuto asked.

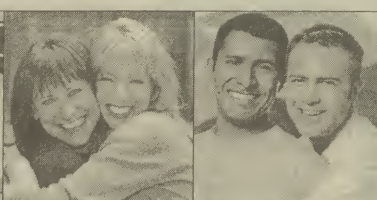
"Yes," Pelosi replied, according to a transcript of the program. "And I don't think they should be discriminated in the Constitution. And my goal is to defeat that resolution. And I'm not going to be sidetracked by any other questions about ethics."

"So what the mayor of San Francisco is doing, you would approve of it?" Cavuto asked.

"Yes," Pelosi responded. The National Stonewall Democrats and Equality California praised Pelosi's statements.

"The most powerful Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives has just come out for full marriage quality," said Dave Noble, NSD executive director. ▼

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Ripping friends

by Jim Provenzano

Back from Boston and the U.S. Masters Indoor Track and Field Championships last weekend, San Francisco Track and Field members Reggie Snowden, Curtis Moore, Gwynn Villegas, and Bob Callori brought back a few medals, and unfortunately, a few ripped muscles as well.

On the first day, Snowden won his second Pentathlon but in the process strained his hamstring. "I

had to pull out of the next day's competition in the open long jump, and my favorite event, the 60-meter hurdles," said Snowden. Recovering by Sunday morning, he won the silver medal in the triple jump.

Moore won the long jump. "Between the two of us, we have managed to keep the gold medal for the past three championships within our club," said Snowden. Moore won that event last year, while Snowden won it two years ago. Villegas competed in his first

U.S. National Indoor Championships in the 60-meter dash, 60-meter hurdles, and the 200-meter and did impressive for his first meet. Callori competed in his first championships too in the 60-meter and the 200-meter dashes.

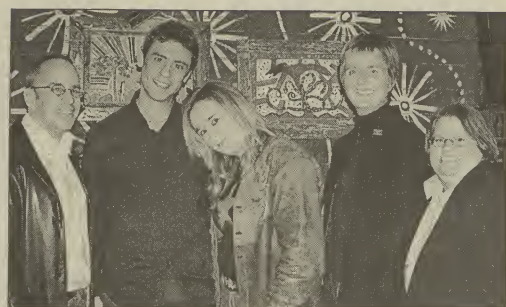
A new talent for SF Track and Field, Bob Young, competed in his first championships, in the 3000-meter and the 1500-meter.

Next year's indoor championships will be held in Idaho.

Singing their praises

Also in Boston last weekend, the Gay and Lesbian Athletics Foundation (www.glaaf.org) hosted its second annual sports conference, with about 150 people attending. Among the panelists were representatives from both Chicago's Gay Games VII and Montreal's Rendez-Vous 2006. Surprisingly, no altercations occurred, although some heated accusations were tossed back and forth.

Montreal also had an organizational meeting of its newly created Gay & Lesbian International Sports Association, which pretty



Contracts and concerts in Chicago: From left, Dennis Sneyers, Roberto Mantaci, Melissa Etheridge, Kathleen Webster, and Tracy Baim.

much mimics the goals of the Federation of Gay Games while pretending not to be set on upstaging it. Recent PR material for Montreal's event ironically uses images of athletes with Gay Games V medals and Gay Games VI ID badges conveniently cropped out.

Two weeks ago, Chicagoans enjoyed a benefit concert given by Melissa Etheridge as part of the celebrations of the comparatively quick and painless contract signings between the federation and Chicago Games Inc.

The two-headed PR battle continues at www.chicagogamesinc.com and www.montreal2006.org.

Wrestling medalist dies

Winston Mathis died on February 26 after a long battle with diabetes and heart disease.

Mathis wrestled for Golden Gate Wrestling Club from 1987 through 1996, competed in two Gay Games and medaled as a super heavyweight (gold and silver).

Mathis served on Team SF for many years, and was the Team San Francisco delegate in the Federation of Gay Games for many years. He is preceded in death by both his parents, and three siblings. A memorial to celebrate Mathis's life was held Thursday, March 25 at a church in Richmond.

Sadly, Mathis ran into some very bad financial straits in the early 1990s, when he allegedly embezzled several thousand dollars from Team SF.

Gene Dermody, his landlord at the time, paid off the debt, and said he never held a grudge or pursued the debt. "Team SF eventually got their funds from the bank, which really was at fault," he said. "But because they pursued the debt, Winston served six months in jail."

"It was very sad in that he was a very sensitive and sincere person," said Dermody. "He felt so guilty about it all that he never kept in contact with any of us. He was most proud of his Gay Games medals, and for being the one of the chosen FGG flag handlers at GGIV IV NY Closing Ceremonies."

Donations in Mathis's memory can be sent to Always and Forever - Memorial and Honor Program, Attn: American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 2680, North Canton, OH 44720.

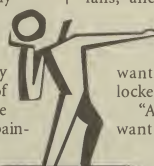
Hearst man shun

49ers fans can say goodbye to running back Garrison Hearst, who was signed with the Denver Broncos last week. The 11-year NFL veteran became a free agent when San Francisco released him in February.

Hearst started 12 games for the 49ers last season, rushing for 768 yards and three touchdowns and adding 211 yards and a score on

25 catches. He missed the rest of the season due to a knee injury.

Hearst is the only player in NFL history to win the league's Comeback Player of the Year award twice, being honored in 1995 and 2001. But gay football fans, and even non-fans, may



Sports Complex

know Hearst for his antigay comments in 2002, about not wanting a "faggot" in his locker room.

"Aww, hell no! I don't want any faggots on my team," Hearst told Fresno Bee columnist Milo F. Bryant on October 27, 2002, following the 49ers' victory over the

Arizona Cardinals. "I know this might not be what people want to hear, but that's a punk. I don't want any faggots in this locker room."

Hearst missed the 1999 and 2000 seasons with a severe left ankle injury, but came back in 2001 to start 16 games and rush for 1,206 yards. The man who helped him recover, former 49ers head trainer Lindsey McLean, recently came out after retiring.

The 49ers were commended for their swift response to the Hearst incident, and they recently donated \$5,000 to the LGBT Community Center's youth programs, possibly in response to a statement from the center's Executive Director Thom Lynch regarding homophobia in the NFL.

Of Hearst's comments, in his Bay Area Reporter interview, McLean said, "Garrison just wasn't thinking. It was sort of a reflex."

In its feature article about McLean, Hearst told ESPN magazine, "Lindsay's cool, man, very cool. His personal habit is his personal habit. It doesn't matter to me."

I guess old habits die hard. Thanks for the words of wisdom, Garrison. Buh-bye, now.

Faux courant

In its latest issue, the Advocate decided to finally do an article about Matthew Cusick and his discrimination complaint filed by Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. How nice for him. How nice for everyone.

Of course, how convenient that the cover story was published months after the publication ran a lavish, if not whorish, promotional feature article about Cirque's Las Vegas show as the controversy really kicked in.

The Advocate article, published four months after my, and many other media interviews with Cusick, capitalizes on Cusick's armpits in its cover photo more than it furthers aid the fight against HIV discrimination.

The "Gays in Sports" issue also recaps the Gay Games VII/Montreal 2006 split, which was covered quite thoroughly here. They do get credit for an article about the lone out gay athlete set to compete in Athens at this summer's Olympics. ▼

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Mass. passes marriage amendment

by Bob Roehr

Massachusetts completed the first of three steps toward amending the state Constitution to ban gay marriage. The March 29 vote also mandates creation of civil unions for same-sex couples. Neither action changes the fact that marriage licenses are scheduled to be issued to gay residents of the state on May 17.

The Legislature, meeting again as a constitutional convention, wasted little time in adopting a compromise amendment that defines marriage as only between a

man and a woman and creates civil unions for same-sex couples. It turned back attempts by conservatives to divide the two issues on the ballot.

The final vote was 105-92, barely more than the 101 votes needed for passage. The amendment must be passed by the next session of the Legislature, meeting in 2005-06, before it is sent to the voters in November 2006 for their stamp of approval.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has ordered that marriage licenses should be issued to gay couples beginning on May 17. That ruling stands unaffected by Monday's vote.

Governor Mitt Romney (R) called for an injunction to prohibit those licenses from being issued, pending the outcome of the amendment vote in 2006. Attorney General Thomas Reilly (D) resisted the effort and most legal scholars view it as extremely unlikely that the court will defer what it has already ordered.

A little known or enforced provision of Massachusetts's marriage law prevents out of state couples from marrying if the law of their home state prohibits such unions. It was passed in 1913 in deference to now-archaic laws in some states that prohibited interracial marriage.

Reilly said town clerks would be given a list of states that had defined marriage as only between a man and a woman. Marriage licenses should not be issued to same-sex couples who reside in those states.

That is likely to slow the tide of gay couples planning nuptials in the Bay State only slightly. Most nearby states have no such restriction. It also will be the impetus for additional legal action within Massachusetts and by couples who marry and return home to challenge state proscriptions on gay marriage.

"Fear and prejudice won out over courage and over decency,"

said Arline Isaacson with the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Gay advocates are hoping that time and the experience of thousands of gay couples marrying will help to defeat the amendment the second time it comes before the constitutional convention.

The compromise uniting the marriage ban and creation of civil unions may in fact be a poison pill that helps to ultimately defeat the amendment. "Forcing the people to pass civil unions at the same time is nothing short of blackmail," said the Family Research Council's Tony Perkins. ▼

Gay marriage

◀ page 1

gone further and wants all five cases involving same-sex marriage – four filed in San Francisco and one in Los Angeles – to be combined into one case. The courts have already stayed three of the cases, while the other two cases are in response to the Supreme Court's ruling that it wanted the constitutionality questions of the state's discriminatory marriage statutes to be heard by the lower courts. Until a decision is made on combining the cases, Lockyer asked the council to immediately stay all proceedings.

"There is no valid reason why these matters should be resolved in an expedited basis. A short stay will not prejudice anyone's interests because either the cases have been stayed by the superior court for other reasons or the cases have just recently been filed such that no responsive pleadings have been filed," wrote Lockyer in his petition to the judicial council.

Yet Ray Hernandez and his partner of 11 years, Charles Burke, said they could not wait for the courts to act and went ahead with their "wedding" under the City Hall Rotunda Tuesday afternoon. Originally booked for a 3 p.m. appointment that day, and already having sent out invitations to family and friends, the couple decided they wanted to exchange vows, calling their ceremony a "statement of legal marriage." The marriage was not legally recognized and no license was issued.

"We felt strongly about our right to do this even though the state says we can't," said Burke before the ceremony.

Shunned by local officials who told the couple they were on their own due to the Supreme Court's March 11 ruling that ended the gay nuptials, the couple brought their own minister, Juliana Lawson, a minister with the Universal Church of Life. Dressed in tuxedos with red rose boutonnières, the men grasped hands as they recited their vows and then exchanged rings.

Whereas city officials declared the couples they wed "spouses for life," Lawson said, "By the power invested in me by the California Constitution Article 1 Declaration of Rights I now pronounce you husbands. Let all people everywhere recognize your union."

"Hopefully, we will soon be legal," a smiling Hernandez said to the crowd of 25 friends and family who witnessed the ceremony.

If Lockyer prevails, 4,000 couples will join Hernandez and Burke as spouses in name only. In his brief filed with the Supreme Court Thursday, March 25, he asked the justices not only to rule against the city, which has argued that Mayor

Gavin Newsom had a right to disobey the state's marriage statutes, but to also clarify that the same-sex marriage certificates and licenses issued by the city "have no legal force or effect" and order the city to "return the fees paid for said certificates and licenses."

In asking for the five lower court cases to be combined, Lockyer argued it makes sense financially and will eliminate duplication of efforts.

"It will promote judicial economy and be far more convenient and less expensive for everyone involved, to try this matter in one forum," wrote Lockyer in his petition. "Coordination will foster the efficient utilization of judicial facilities, resources and calendars of the courts. Coordinating cases will also avoid duplicative and inconsistent rulings, orders, or judgments."

The city attorney and lawyers

for the same-sex couples and gay rights groups disagree, calling the attorney general's latest move a delay tactic. City attorney spokeswoman Alexis Truchan said there is no reason for the courts to grant the stay sought by Lockyer.

"The two active cases should proceed together. The other three pose no threat of inconsistent rulings or wasted resources because they already have been stayed," said Truchan. "We see the attorney general's request for what it is: a delay tactic. Clearly neither answering the pertinent question of constitutionality nor restoring rights to California citizens are foremost on the agenda of our opponent."

If the judicial council does grant Lockyer's request, Truchan said "It's going to drag all the progress in the cases to a halt."

Lawyers with the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the

American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California scrambled Tuesday to file a brief with the judicial council opposing Lockyer's request. Upset that Lockyer gave them no warning prior to filing his request, the lawyers are adamantly opposed to combining all five cases.

"He is attempting to slow down this case without having any legitimate legal basis for doing so," said Shannon Minter with NCLR. "It's a pretty blatant and shocking – I am genuinely shocked – attempt to delay the ability of these couples to have their day in court."

"This is on top of his outrageous request to the California Supreme Court to invalidate the marriages that were already granted," added Minter.

"The reality is couples are being denied the right to marry right now. Couples who have been

together many years have a right to ask their government to provide equal protections for their families," added the ACLU's Tamara Lange. "So the delay will hurt real people. Justice delayed is justice denied."

Lockyer spokeswoman Halle Jordan, however, argued the request is not a delay tactic.

"We are committed to vigorously defending California law in these different cases," said Jordan. "We believe the streamline approach is much better than trying to litigate in different courts and different cities."

The cases are *City and County of San Francisco v. State of California*, *Lancy Woo v. Bill Lockyer*, *Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund v. City and County of San Francisco*, *Thomasson v. Newsom*, and *Robin Tyler v. The County of Los Angeles*. ▼

DOMA

◀ page 1

activists to impose gay marriage upon the country through the full faith and credit clause of the Constitution.

John Hanes, a Republican and chair of the Wyoming Senate Judiciary Committee, explained how marriage is composed of many parts – not just the needs of procreation – and has evolved and changed over time. Focusing on child rearing "is demeaning to the other elements of marriage."

He said he had faith in state and local officials to take their responsibilities seriously without the need for federal intervention. And he pointed to the most recent edition of the magazine of the National Conference of State Legislatures that discussed how individual states "really are stepping up to the plate" in ways that are responsive to local conditions.

Conservative legal scholar Bruce Fein believes that DOMA is constitutional. "Any attack on its legitimacy will clearly fail," he said. It is not flawed because it restates the full faith and credit clause, he added.

Chabot asked the panel of the likelihood that DOMA would be struck down as unconstitutional.

Barr said they took that into account in writing "a very carefully crafted and limited piece of legislation" that could stand up to legal challenge.

McCarthy agreed, though he held out the possibility that some judge might rule otherwise. Fein rated the likelihood of it being struck down as "extremely slim."

That didn't satisfy social conservatives like Representative Steve King (R-Iowa) who took recent Supreme Court rulings to spin out a horror story that went

from gay marriage to polygamy. "You could certainly extrapolate that final dystopia that you described," said Fein. "But I don't see how it logically extends beyond same-sex marriage."

Representative Adam Schiff (D-California) said if the fear is that DOMA might be struck down, why not simply propose making that language the text of a constitutional amendment? The fact that proponents are not doing so "begs the question of what are they trying to do?" He thought it was trying to take authority away from states to define marriage.

Shop closes

◀ page 5

fined him for stains on the sidewalk in front of the store. Armed with photos showing no stains, he argued against the \$150 fine. At the hearing, the administrator reduced the fine to \$75.

"I am not happy to pay for something I didn't do," said Douglas.

After being told someone called in to complain about the alleged stain, Douglas said he couldn't help but think it was retaliation for not joining the local merchant group.

"It is probably paranoid of me, but that is what this street has done to me, I think people are out to get me," Douglas said.

When asked about Douglas's comment, Herb Cohn, president of the Merchants of Upper Market and Castro, said, "MUMC is not in the business of turning people in to the city, rather in promoting business for our businesses."

While Cohn, a certified public accountant, acknowledged there have been problems in the past, he said the business district is improving, especially under Supervisor Bevan Dufty's Castro Renais-

sance plan. He pointed to the Federal Marriage Amendment "clearly a proactive resolution to define marriage for all of the states of the union. It goes far beyond DOMA."

Fein questioned whether the very subject matter of marriage "falls within the unwritten rules of when we amend the Constitution."

In an interview, Chabot said he has no definitive timetable for an anticipated additional four hearings but he expects they will each be two to three weeks apart. Those hearings will determine when, or even if the committee and the House will vote on a marriage

amendment

"There doesn't appear to be any sense of urgency," Nadler said. "I'm not even sure they will call it up for a vote. Right now there is no reason." That would change if a court ruled DOMA unconstitutional.

But Hilary Rosen cautioned against complacency. The former head of the record industry and a consultant to the Human Rights Campaign, where she once served as co-chair the board of directors, fears that anything can happen when social conservatives bring their full pressure to bear on members of Congress. ▼

sance plan. He pointed to the planting this week of about 10 ginkgo biloba trees along Castro Street, the clean-up of Harvey Milk Plaza, and new businesses moving into the area, such as De La Sole shoe store and La Noevelle Patisserie, which plans to open in May.

As for Douglas, he hopes things in Canada, where he will relocate with his partner, Snake Woolington, will turn out differently.

Loyal customers said they are sad to see the store close. Anne

Dormann, a patron for 10 years, stopped in last Friday to get one last bite of chocolate.

"It's good. It's so good. And I can come in for a little piece which is all I need, so yeah, I'll miss them," she said.

Despite all the headaches and struggle, Douglas will miss Dormann and his other regulars as well. As a sign to customers posted on his door reads, "We are sad and we'll miss you all. With affection, the Faerie Queen." ▼

Gonzalez

◀ page 3

sive record of supporting public power, IRV elections, higher minimum wages, and LGBT rights. He knew Gonzalez as a public defender, and believes he is a man of "integrity" who as a lawyer and a politician "brings an intelligent coherent voice for his positions, and elevates the level of debate."

Hammer is perhaps best known as the prosecutor who successfully won convictions against the caretakers of the vicious dogs who attacked and killed lesbian

Diane Whipple. But his own history includes 15 years of prosecution work as well as six years of Jesuit work serving the poor.

"I've spent 15 years ... on the tail end of what society produces in terms of suffering, and serving as supervisor would be a way to have an effect and change the city at the front end, before all the violence happens," said Hammer. "In a way it would be a return to my roots."

Although he acknowledged that he plans to talk to Barnes before he makes his decision, Hammer said, "I've always gone after what I've believed in." ▼

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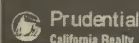


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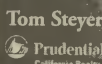
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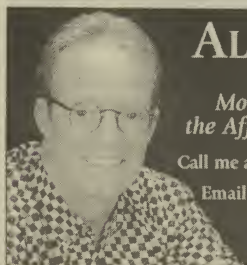


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LEGAL NOTICES

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The following person(s) are doing business as: C & M Handyman Repair Service 318 Lakeview St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Craig Biggers Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274150-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Towing 3101 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Gerardo Hernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04.
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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Public hearing and availability of preliminary recommendations for San Francisco's 2004 community development block grant (cdbg), emergency shelter grant (esg) and home investment partnership (home) programs.
Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2004
Time: 5:30 PM.

Place: City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 263
Board of Supervisors Committee Room

The Citizens Committee on Community Development, Mayor's Office of Community Development and Mayor's Office of Housing invite interested parties to attend a public hearing on the preliminary funding recommendations for the federally funded CDBG, ESG and HOME Programs. The purpose of the hearing is to receive comments on the preliminary recommendations. If you have any questions regarding the public hearing, please call (415) 252-3100.

Beginning Wednesday, March 31st, the 2004 Preliminary Recommendations will be available electronically on the Mayor's Office of Community Development's (MOCD) website at www.sfgov.org/mocd. Copies of the recommendations will also be available at MOCD, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 700. The Preliminary Recommendations will not be mailed.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The following documents are available online at: www.sfgov.org/bdsupvrs/
Agendas/Boards/Commissions Application and Vacancy Notices; District Information; Final Board Minutes; Legislation Introduced; Legislative Analyst Reports; Meeting Schedules; Motions; Ordinances; Resolutions; Rules of Order; Votes and more.
The Charter and Municipal Codes are available on the City's web site: www.sfgov.org.

VACANCY NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application form from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information and an application may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.sfgov.org/bdsupvrs

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled. To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

POWER PLANT TASK FORCE

The Power Plant Task Force consists of a total of 10 voting members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. The Task Force is comprised of the following: 1 resident of the Mission Bay area, 1 resident of Bayview Hunters Point area, 1 resident of the Potrero Hill area, 1 resident of the Central Waterfront area, 1 member of the Southern Waterfront Advisory Committee/Pier 70 Community Advisory Group, 1 resident of the South of Market area, the executive director of the San Francisco Community Power Coop or his/her designee, the head of the San Francisco Labor Council or his/her designee, the executive director of Communities for a Better Environment or his/her designee and the executive director of Literacy for Environmental Justice or his/her designee.

The Task Force shall provide input to the City and County of San Francisco which previously was conducted by the Potrero Power Plant Advisory Task Force which advised the Board on power policy issues related to the construction of new power generating facilities in the Southeast portion of San Francisco, power demand management, the Energy Resource Plan and an energy policy for the city.
Sunset Date: November 1, 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0274146-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Let's Get West Entertainment 1049 Market St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Charles Bocchetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274166-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Joe's Barber Shop 4102 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joseph Gallagher. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274022-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Drums and Wires 526 Broderick St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin H. Ache. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274175-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SFVIVOR 1221 Jones Street, Apt. 4B San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ellen Charnley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274228-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Water Real Estate Group 447 Ivy Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed James N Rothman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274257-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: #1 Lost Art #2 Atelier Lost Art 3440 18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Mario Kashou. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/05/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274355-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: See, LLC 128 King St, 3rd floor San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Andrew Narraway. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274106-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flyers #232 2000 19th Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274104-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flyers #233 2301 19th Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274108-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cardlock #437 2690 3rd Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274109-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flyers #235 3300 Caesar Chavez St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274107-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cardlock #430 200 Toland Street San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed Thomas A. Dwell. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/01/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0274189-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Loan Officer Mortgage 505 Montgomery St. 7th Floor San Francisco, Ca. 94111. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Gregory C. Pennington. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274391-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: A Wicked Scent 30 Collingwood St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Daryl Cullen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/11/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/11/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274381-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Otaku Patrol Group, OPG Communications 1133 Mason Ct. Suite H, Treasure Island, San Francisco Ca. 94130. This business is conducted by an individual signed A. Thorsson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/10/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/10/04.
MAR 18, 25 APR 1, 8 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274457-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Z's Fashion Jewelry 888 Brannan St., Ste. 2075 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Jing Shao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-15-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-15-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273894-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pussy Kat Productions 4096 17th St., #204 San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kathleen Amendia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02-24-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02-24-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: A-0269342-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: King's Cafe. Located at: 1338 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business was conducted by an individual signed Tony Chi-Man Yu. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 08/21/03.
APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274720-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sunrise Laundry 704 Polk St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Han To. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-23-04.
APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274696-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Level 3, 580 California Street, 16th Floor, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Wolf Sterling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-23-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-23-04.
APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274780-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Hearing Health Care of San Francisco, Inc. 303 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Robert Baker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-25-04.
APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274867-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Context 250 Fell St., #54 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Jimmy Kansau. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-29-04.
APR 1, 8, 15, 22 2004

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STATEMENT FILE A-0274644-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: HD Technology 211 Ashton Avenue San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Yue Bing Chen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-22-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274637-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Big Art's Hauling 1319 S. Van Ness Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Arturo Pleitez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03-22-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

FILE NO. CNC 04-541243
In the Matter of the Application of Sandra Elizabeth Merk for Change of Name. The application of Sandra Elizabeth Merk for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sandra Elizabeth Merk has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Elizabeth Sandra Cocco. Now therefore, It is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of May at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274676-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Minda Lee Fine Home Detailing 429 Douglas St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Minda Jo Lee. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03-22-04.
MAR 25 APR 1, 8, 15 2004

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LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. CNC 04-541227
 In the Matter of the Application of Alex Kirienko for Change of Name. The application of Alex Kirienko for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alex Kirienko has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alex Kiren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court, in Department 218 on the 27th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

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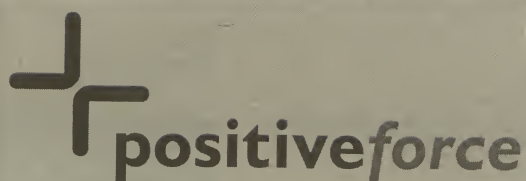
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Taylor-made pieces
Paul Taylor Dance Co. at Yerba Buena Ctr. for Arts.

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Precipitation likely
'A Thousand Clouds of Peace' plays the Castro.

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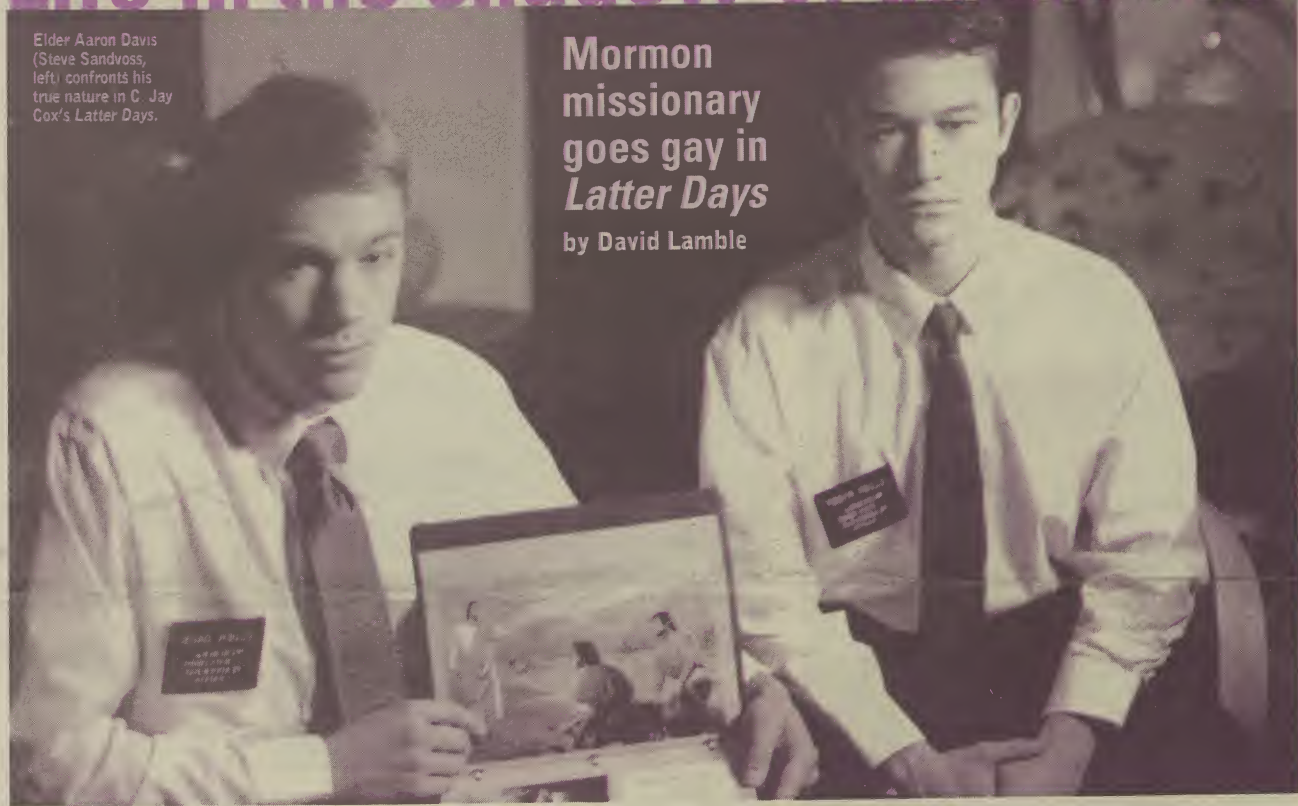
Vol. 34 • No. 14 • 1 April 2004

Life in the shadow of damnation

Elder Aaron Davis (Steve Sandvoss, left) confronts his true nature in C. Jay Cox's *Latter Days*.

Mormon missionary goes gay in *Latter Days*

by David Lamble



Filmmaker C. Jay Cox remembers growing up in the lonely ranch country of Eastern Nevada, far from the Vegas strip. He remembers wanting to be a filmmaker, a dream that one day got him sent to the principal's office for uttering dirty words in class. The words were "film noir."

"Yeah, it turned out that my teacher knew it was French and figured that I was talking about 'dirty

movies." While many filmmakers boast in their memoirs about cutting class to watch the films of the French New Wave, young Cox was trapped in a part of the world seriously lacking in visual stimulation. "In the entire county, we had two television channels and one movie theatre, which was only open Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. It was much closer to *The Last Picture Show*."

Young Cox, like 80% of his neighbors, was raised Mormon. The film bug wasn't the only thing that made him different in a church whose elders thought *Jesus Christ Superstar* was blasphemous.

"I remember hearing in religion class that there was a separate hell for murderers, for rapists, and for homosexuals; and I remember knowing, That's

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Same-sex myth-making

Photography by Adi Nes at the Legion

by Will Shank

Between Promise and Possibility: The Photographs of Adi Nes at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor

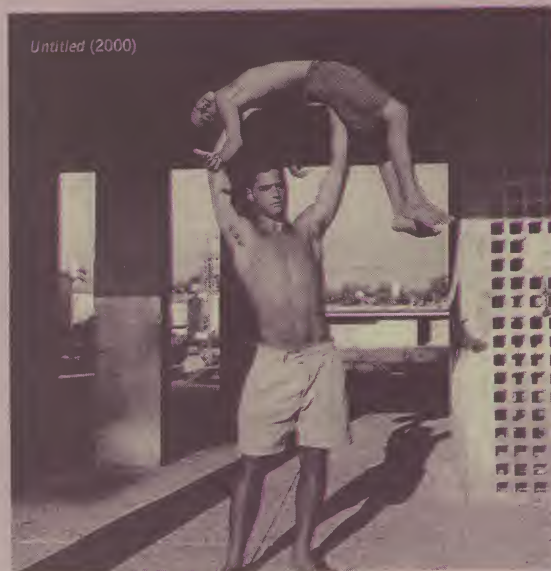
While space is at a premium in the Fine Arts Museums' only available exhibition galleries (the new de Young does not open until 2005), one can imagine the curators engaging in behind-the-scenes catfights in order to nail down spaces for their shows. Associate Curator Daniell Cornell has triumphed by installing an extraordinary exhibition of color photographs at the end of the long series of south galleries on the Legion of Honor's main floor, balancing the madness of Art Deco, which has taken over the

north side of the building.

From a distance, the viewer sees a familiar grouping of men, seated at a table, at the end of the chain of rooms. Is it a three-dimensional tableau of figures, or is it an enormous painting? As one approaches the gallery, two diagonally placed walls slowly allow the image to reveal itself, like curtains over a theatrical proscenium, under the title of the exhibition on the back wall. The figures are contemporary soldiers posing as the apostles in Leonardo's *The Last Supper*. The work is a large-scale color photograph by Israeli photographer Adi Nes.


As compelling as the familiar image is, *The Last Supper* (officially "Untitled, 1999") is but one of 20 arresting views of men and boys as posed by the openly gay Nes. Much of the exhibition comprises a series of male models pho-

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SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

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Sweetie darlings, rejoice!

Alcohol-addled 'Ab Fab' matrons return

by Roberto Friedman

Lately, Out There has been partying it up with British same-sex pair Patsy Stone & Edina Monsoon, those decadent fashionista dames portrayed by Joanna Lumley and Jennifer Saunders, by watching all the episodes from Series 5 of *Absolutely Fabulous*, now out on DVD from BBC Video. Eddy's daughter Saffy (Julia Sawalha) has gone and got herself preggers. Despite Eddy's initial misgivings ("babies and Bollinger don't mix"), she's elated when she learns the father is African, as a mixed-race child is definitely considered "the Chanel of babies."

and she gets pulled under). Eternal adolescent Eddy has some gray in her hair, but in fact we're all getting a little bit older, aren't we, sweetie darlings?

Casting couch

Casting sessions for *The 9/11 Hearings: The Miniseries* must already be underway in cable-network conference rooms, and

they've gotta be a bitch. Ideal Hollywood talent for the principal roles?

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the loop" to **Rush** "OxyContin-R-U's" **Limbaugh**): **John Goodman** in a bald-cap

Secretary of State **Colin Powell**: **Bill Cosby**

Former Secretary of State

Madelaine Albright: **Bea Arthur**

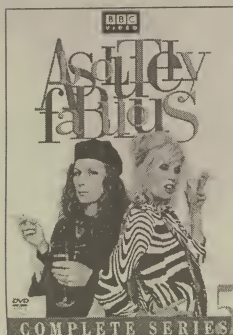
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(fall guy?): **George Clooney**

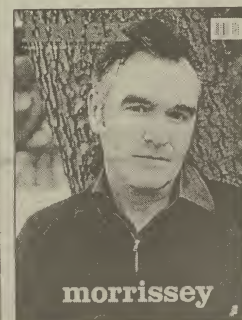
National Security Adviser

Condoleezza Rice: **Diahann Carroll**

Out There



Ever the career gal, Patsy has moved on from fashion magazine editor/cocaine fiend to stylist to the stars, in which capacity she begs free clothes for putative celebrities (**Minnie Driver**) from publicity-craving designers. Celeb cameos are served up from former Spice Girl **Emma Bunton**, fashion force **Jean-Paul Gaultier**, and the apparently inescapable **Sir Elton John**. Comic genius **Jane Horrocks** steals several scenes as both Eddy's elfin personal assistant **Bubble** and TV journalist **Katy Grin** (embedded in Iraq, her fatigues get caught in the tread of an on-coming tank,



Magazine wrack

Well now, who's this on the cover of *Index* magazine but our old friend, pop-star **Morrissey**? That new album he has been promising is reportedly in the process of being mixed; it's a collaboration with LA producer

Jerry Finn, who's put out albums by **Bad Religion**, **Green Day** and **Blink 182**.

The *Moz* acknowledges "there's generally an extreme reaction when my name is mentioned. Thankfully, enough people buy my records. Otherwise, I wouldn't be here, I'd be working at *Kingdom of Leather*."



Then, who's that on the cover of the new issue of *In* magazine but she's-out, she's-back-in-the-closet movie star **Anne Heche**? It's as if her fame and this *In* mag exist in a weird parallel universe to *Out* magazine!

Meantime, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its founding, *Poz* magazine gathered 80 people with HIV to pose nude at Restaurant Florent, a bistro in Manhattan's Meatpacking District, for a photo installation created by artist **Spencer Tunick**. The image will appear as a gatefold cover of *Poz*'s May issue.

Tunick has been documenting the live nude figure in public since 1992, and was the subject of the 2003 HBO documentary *Naked World*. Nude participants included *Poz* founder **Sean Strub**, needle-exchange activist **Chloe Dzibilo**, Treatment Action Group editor **Mike Barr**, and restaurant owner **Florent Morellet**, who gained underground acclaim in the HIV community years ago when he began posting his T-cell count on the restaurant's menu board. Who needs glossy magazines after all!

Mercedes bends

When eternal strongwoman and role model **Mercedes McCambridge**, born 1916, died on March 2, our hometown paper gave her, oh, one or two sentences in-between all the *Chippy* news. By contrast, the UK *Guardian* gave her obituary six columns, from which we reprint these lines with all the proper acknowledgment

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THEATRE

Theatre underground (and out the back door)

Duca Knezevic stages 'Flaming Iguanas'

by Richard Dodds

Flaming Iguanas may be the first show at Theatre Rhino with a dress code. In this case, it's dress down. Audiences will be taking a physical journey, as does the central character in a new play adapted from Erika Lopez's novel. The play, opening this week, starts and ends in the main theater, and other scenes will take place throughout the Rhino experience, including the downstairs Studio, the outdoor world of the theater's backstage alley, and its motorcycle-equipped backyard. In other words, dress in layers and wear sensible shoes.

It was an idea promoted by Duca Knezevic, the theater's assistant artistic director, to turn Lopez's novel into a stage piece. The connection with SF novelist Lopez began when the writer applied for a job as Rhino's house manager. "I did not know any of her writing at the time," Knezevic said. "She brought me a monologue she was working on, and she left me one of her novels. I called her back and said, 'The monologue is OK, but I'm really interested in getting your books on stage.'"

Flaming Iguanas, the first part of a trilogy, follows Tomato Rodriguez as she travels by motorcycle from New Jersey to San Francisco in search of good sex — and ultimately, sexual identity. Knezevic and Rhino's Artistic Director John Fisher shared the job of adapting the novel and staging the results.

"It's an unusual book," Knezevic said. "It's all very easy and cartoonish. John and I were thinking what would be the theatrical equivalent of this kind of writing. John kept saying it has to be something we've never done before. We finally came up with the idea to walk the audience with us as we show all the spaces we occupy in this building."

In addition to suggesting Tomato's journey, the audience's travels through the well-worn brick building on 16th Street have another motive. "We've been in this space for 20 years now," Knezevic said. "It was supposed to be a temporary solution. We want to show people how we work and make our illusions. Whenever we have a donor in the theater, I take him or her by the hand and show them what's really behind the scenes. And they say, 'Wow, no one ever told me this.' They say communists become the best capitalists."

Knezevic grew up in Yugoslavia, worked successfully in education, theater, and broadcasting during the illusory good times of the Tito regime, and became a theater radical as the country violently split apart.

"I used to be a celebrity back in the previous life," Knezevic said. "But I was kind of like the character in Flaming Iguanas. I wasn't a lesbian. I look as I look right now. I didn't know it had anything to do with sexual orientation, and I was still going out with men."



Theatre Rhinoceros assistant artistic director Duca Knezevic

Being publicly gay is not something that's very much appreciated there. I'm not sure I would have been able to keep my job as an open lesbian. And it took me a while to figure out who and what I am."

The breakthrough came in 1995, when she met Lisa James at a theater festival in Slovenia. James worked for a small theater company in Atlanta, and for two years they had a commuting romance. "It got kind of impossible," Knezevic said. "We decided that my English is much better than her Serbo-Croatian, and it would be easier for me to find a job here than for her to find a job there and get accustomed to everyday stuff."

They chose California for their home so each would be starting anew, and because Knezevic had a visa to attend UC Davis. "That kept me here for three years," she said. "Then I was looking for a job, because once your student visa is no good anymore, you have to find a job or leave the country. Theatre Rhinoceros is the only place where I looked for a job that said, 'We'll sponsor your visa.'"

Knezevic's efforts to gain green-card status grew more complicated after 9/11. When the extension on her current visa runs out, she said, "There is no law on the books right now according to which I can stay in the country. Our only hope is that something

will happen on the Federal level, either gay marriage or however they recognize same-sex unions. If three years from now, they still don't have it, we'll have to move somewhere else."

For tickets to Flaming Iguanas, call 861-5079 or go to therhino.org.

Short scenes

• *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, the 2002 best musical Tony Award winner, is making its only Bay Area stop at the American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Broadway veteran Darcie Roberts has the title role in the movie-based musical, opening April 13. Call (888) 455-7469 or go to amtsj.org.

• TheatreWorks is hosting the world premiere this week of *My Antonia*, a play with music based on Willa Cather's novel about a resilient immigrant girl in 1880s Nebraska. Scott Schwartz adapted the novel and is directing the production in Mountain View, and an onstage band will play a new score by his father, Stephen Schwartz (*Wicked*). Call (650) 903-6000.

• A dark comedy about dangerous passions lurking beneath the surface of suburban tranquility is the stuff of *The Smell of the Kill*. Michele Lowe's 2002 Broadway play makes its Bay Area debut on April 9 at The Playhouse, a new theater near Union Square. Call 677-9596 or go to TicketWeb.com. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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Fire and funk

Paul Taylor Dance Co. at Yerba Buena

by Stephanie von Buchau

Sometimes ignorance is a good thing. I had no idea, until I read the press kit for this year's annual residency of the Paul Taylor Dance Company at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, that there was a controversy surrounding Taylor's *Promethean Fire*. This wonderful piece was new in 2003 and is repeated on the second of three Taylor programs that opened last Wednesday and run through April 4.

Set to three Bach works orchestrated grandiloquently by Leopold Stokowski, *Fire*, with its heaped up bodies, was considered by some to be a response to the 9/11 tragedy. Others thought, as the superscription is from Shakespeare's *Othello*, that the piece had something to do with Desdemona's murder by her jealous husband. Taylor himself, logically enough since the music suggests it, claims the work was inspired by the film *Fantasia*.

I'm glad I didn't know any of that before I was conquered by *Fire* last spring and again on Thursday, where it shared the bill with another new Taylor work, *Le Grand Puppetier* (Stravinsky). *Fire* is a sensational piece, come just in time to rescue Taylor from some years of creative funk. *Puppetier*, on the other hand, is one of those funky pieces like *Offenbach Overtures* and *Piazzolla Caldera* that seem both shallow and pretentious compared to Taylor's best work.

On the other hand, the guy has been making dances for 50 years — 3 *Epitaphs*, his funny but faintly racist jazz ballet, has been in the rep since 1956 — so we should cut him some slack. When Taylor is good, he's very, very good. When he's not, it's just a waste of time, not a hanging offense. More and more, one has to wonder about how Taylor's eccentric musical choices shape his work and our perception of it. Mr. Balanchine, whose 100th birthday is currently being celebrated by San Francisco Ballet, used to say that if you didn't like the choreogra-

phy, you could always close your eyes and listen to the music.

That's difficult with Taylor, as fiscal constraints (and possibly just antic taste) find him employing strange, cut-down versions of great music. Wednesday's world premiere, co-commissioned by San Francisco Performances, which sponsors Taylor's annual visit, is set to a barrel organ

only with better music.

It also had some humor, which *Runes* misses — unless you find those clumps of hair on the men's backs funny. Still, I found *Dante's* recurring prop motif — a short white scarf that acted as handcuffs, a blindfold, even a piece of toilet paper stuck on a dancer's foot (a blatant steal from Mark Morris' *The Hard Nut*) — tiresomely cute.

Puppetier is one of those patented Taylor pieces about the corruption of power — he shamelessly uses Lord Acton's famous dictum as superscription. In Santo Loquasto's colorful Disney-Russian costumes, a Napoleonic Emperor (diminutive Richard Chen See) tries to marry his reluctant daughter (Lisa Viola) to an unwilling courtier (Richard Kleinendorst), whose gay cavalier routine will either amuse or repel, depending on your tolerance for homosexual caricature. The daughter, meantime, is getting it on with two of her father's guardsmen (Michael Trusnovic in red and Andy Le Beau in pink).

The Emperor's puppet was originally cast as a man, Patrick Corbin, the company's sexy senior dancer who is on injured reserve. Here, the part is danced by Silvia Nevjinsky, Taylor's most classical girl, in an amazingly loose-limbed performance that is both touching and powerful. Still, *Puppetier* doesn't add up to very much, and you can't even have the pleasure of enjoying the Stravinsky, since the pianola version misses the jaunty folk colorations of the orchestral score.

Your best bet with Taylor is his dancers. He went through a bad patch about a decade ago trying to replace the irreplaceable David Parsons and Christopher Gillis, with their gobs of personality and sex appeal. Taylor's solution has been to find uniformly tall, rangy men, who, judging by their Greek god torsos, spend considerable time in the gym. When six guys line up across the stage in *Arden Court* or *Mercuric Tidings*, their pecs and abs arrogantly displayed above those low-cut tights that look sprayed on, it's sometimes difficult to concentrate on the music or the choreography. ▼

arrangement of Gyorgy Ligeti's "Musica ricercata," while *Puppetier* is our old friend "Petrushka" played on the pianola. And who could forget the two-piano version of *Le Sacre du printemps*, due to return here next season? *Le Sacre*, of course, is a magnificent film noir joke about a very serious subject, but *Dante Variations*, the Ligeti world premiere, is not in that masterwork category.

Modern primitive

Ligeti's formal "Bachian" procedures have given birth to a jerky movement style that would have been seen better without the prelude of *Runes* ('75), a kind of sketchbook for *Dante*. Gerald Busby's minimalist piano score accompanies one of those tribal pieces in which everybody is as mean to each other as Taylor imagines primitive people to be; this is a recurring theme of his, like Stephen King's obsession with writer's block, that I am temperamentally unable to access. *Dante* seemed like more of the same,

Out There

◀ page 26

ment.

"Hollywood has had its fair share of actors turned into lesbian icons — think of Barbara Stanwyck, Marlene Dietrich, Joan Crawford or Greta Garbo — but none had a dykier screen persona than Mercedes McCambridge, who has died aged 87.

"She played up this image in her cameo performance in Orson Welles' *Touch of Evil* ('58), as the duck-tailed, leather-jacketed leader of a band of Mexican bikers, wanting to watch Janet Leigh being raped in the motel

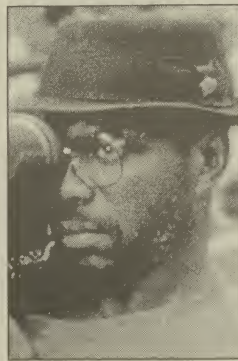
room. This was a follow-up to perhaps her most famous role, that of the butch bitch who leads a posse against Crawford in Nicholas Ray's baroque Western, *Johnny Guitar* ('54).

"The question posed by several critics about the latter role was whether McCambridge, as Emma Small, who owns 'every head of cattle for 500 miles,' wanted to kill Crawford's saloon-owning character Vienna, or sleep with her." Such a fine line.

Penciled in

A passel of upcoming events of aesthetic importance:

• In *Marlon Riggs: 10 Years* next page ▶



Filmmaker Marlon Riggs honored

THEATRE

Low-frills antics

42nd Street Moon's 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes'

by Richard Dodds

Am my Louise Cole, one of my favorites of the 42nd Street Moon regulars (especially when she gets to tap), is in the challenging position of recreating a role famously essayed by two iconic and oft-imitated performers: Carol Channing and Marilyn Monroe. But as Lorelei Lee in *Gentlemen Prefer Blondes*, Cole imitates neither, creating an appealingly original characterization of subdued proportions.

But then you have to ask if "subdued" is what this 1949 musical really needs in its focal role. When it opened in New York, critics cheered its throwback antic nature at a time, according to critic Brooks Atkinson, when Broadway "has been adding art to the musical stage." The staged concert at the Eureka Theatre has no danger of falling into any sinkholes of art, but the results remain at quite a distance from scintillating.

Part of the problem stems from the direction by Caroline Altman, another regular Moon performer, who is making her directorial debut with the company. An overall flash is missing, and details are often ill-considered, in a production that could benefit from performers with stronger comic and musical skills. Cindy Goldfield's choreography falls too easily into clichés, including the dreaded scissors step. Musical director Dave Dobrusky is the hard-working onstage pianist.

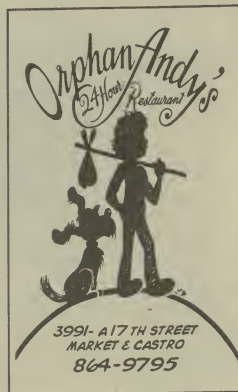
There is spark to Cynthia Myers' performance as Dorothy Shaw, Lorelei's best friend, and Robert Rossman and Dawn Timm, as Lord and Lady Beekman, know how to get the laughs from the dirty old man and his scolding wife. But there isn't much distinguishing fun from Noel Anthony as Lorelei's fiancé or Raymond C. Duval as Dorothy's beau.

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes is one of the less-"rare" musicals that are 42nd Street Moon's specialty. The pleasures of Moon's low-frills stagings seem to come in reverse proportion to the familiarity of the property at hand — when curiosity can fill in many of the blanks. ▼

Gentlemen Prefer Blondes will run at the Eureka Theatre through April 18. Tickets are \$17-\$30. Call 978-2787 or go to 42ndstreetmoon.org.



Amy Louise Cole creates an original characterization of Lorelei Lee.



Out There

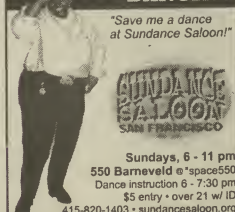
◀ previous page

After, UC Graduate School of Journalism honors filmmaker/prof Marlon Riggs, who died of AIDS in 1994. *Tongues Untied*, Riggs' 1989 film exposing the homophobia and racism that confront black gay men, screens Friday, April 2, 7:30 p.m. at Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Tickets (\$8): (510) 642-1412.

Also, Riggs' former students show clips of their work, Sat., Apr. 3, 7:30 p.m., North Gate Hall, Rm. 105, UC Berkeley. Filmmaker Karen Everett's tribute, *I Shall Not Be Removed*, screens Sun., Apr. 4, 6:30 p.m., followed by a panel discussion, same location. Both these events are free. Info at journalism.berkeley.edu/events/.

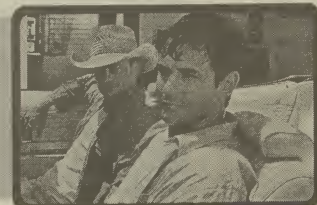
Maverick choreographer Robert Henry Johnson premieres an untitled work when University Dance Theatre presents *Dialogues from Within*, Fri. & Sat., April 2-3, 8 p.m. at McKenna Theatre on the SFSU campus, 19th Ave. & Holloway. Talents of faculty, students and guest musicians included. Tickets (\$12): (415) 338-2467. ▼

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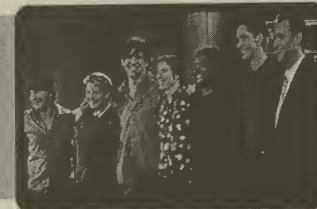
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Daddy dearest

Russian enigma 'The Return' stultifies

by Robert Julian

Andrey Zvyagintsev's first film, *The Return*, is a bleak, puzzling work that will undoubtedly leave many viewers frustrated and questioning. On the surface, *The Return* is a domestic melodrama about two boys who have grown up in their mother's rural Russian home without a father. One day, the father returns unexpectedly and decides to take the boys on a journey of unspecified length with destination unknown. Packing fishing and camping supplies into the back of his car, father and sons leave for a road trip that will end in tragedy.

From the opening frames of *The Return*, there is a heavy sense of foreboding. Cinematographer Mikhail Kritchman provides a bleak landscape of grays and browns that mirrors the emotional sterility of the boy's family. The father's red car may (or may not) be a sign of hope. But positive change does not seem likely given Dad's dark, controlling, brooding personality. The screenplay by Vladimir Moiseenko and Alexander Novotot-



Andrey (Vladimir Garlin) and Vanya (Ivan Dobronravov) go on a trip.

sky fills in few blanks. Where has the father been? Why does he want to go away with the boys? What is inside the mysterious box the father unearths on that remote island? These questions remain unanswered at the end of the journey, but along the way the individual characters of the father and sons are revealed through a series of gradually unfolding conflicts.

The cinematic style and pac-

ing of *The Return* recall the work of the late Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski. But Zvyagintsev's work here is more downbeat and less life-affirming than that of Kieslowski. The actors in *The Return* serve the story well with strong characterizations and distinct personalities, but American audiences will have a difficult time fighting the onset of tedium. *The Return* is, in short, a long, strange trip. ▼

Latter Days

◀ Arts cover

where I'm going to end up, I'm going to this homosexual hell. I had just turned 13 and hadn't even done anything, but I just knew: That's the fate that awaits me, growing up in the shadow of damnation."

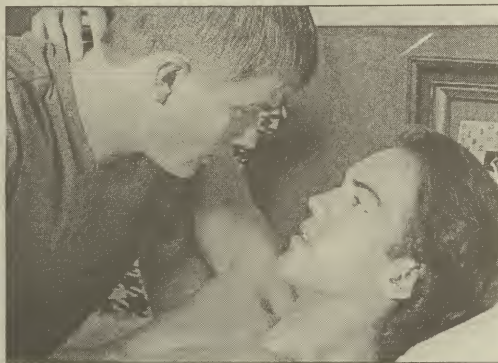
Cox's fears were heightened after a neighbor woman was excommunicated. "She was something of an outcast. Her kids were outcasts, also. They were shunned by the rest of us. I knew that was a pretty dire fate."

Flash-forward almost three decades, and Cox is staring up at a movie marquee that bears his name and the title of his first film, *Latter Days*, opening Friday. It's a tautly told story about a young Mormon missionary who succumbs to the bright lights and carnal temptations of the big city by falling in love with a West Hollywood party-boy. Cox admits that *Latter Days* is a love letter written to his younger self, "that 19-year-old Mormon missionary who was deeply closeted and kind of fearful. It was funny, opening night of the movie, seeing my name up in lights. I realized it's actually my worst nightmare: that in some horribly public way, somebody would go and tell people that I was a big homo. Somehow, my worst fear had opened the door to making my dream come true, making my first movie."

Role playing

At 23, actor Steve Sandvoss has also seen his life's plan spin wildly away from dreams he once had. "There are two kinds of people in Hollywood: the ones who wanted to be actors before they were in Kindergarten, and ones who were doing something else and realized they couldn't deal with it anymore. I was studying Chinese in college, I thought I was going to go into international business, and it was boring me to tears."

Filmmaker Cox was becoming impatient as he watched a parade



Aaron (Steve Sandvoss) meets WeHo party boy Christian (Wes Ramsey).

of young actors lining up to play his alter-ego character, Elder Aaron Davis. "We had seen a lot of waifish boys they were bringing in for Elder Davis. I pointed out that a lot of times, these missionaries are strapping 19-year-old farmboys. When they handed me Steve's picture, I thought, 'Some other waif to read for the role.'"

"Then he walked in the room, and he's this 6'2", 190 lb. all-American. I thought, 'That's the kind of farmboy we're looking for.'"

Like the Davis character, Sandvoss had gone through a crisis in faith, after the death of his father at 17. "There have been times in my life when, through my own choice, I was going to church five or six times a week. I was really just searching for something that made the world make sense, and having that experience made the character real to me. I understood what he was going through."

Like his character, Sandvoss had never been to bed with a man or off screen. He admits to a bit of trepidation before Aaron Davis' big scene in bed with Wes Ramsey's character in a Salt Lake City motel room. "I'm straight, but I went into the role thinking, 'If I don't give 100%, it's going to show. If I look like I'm scared or uncomfortable, it's going to show, and then I'll never work again.' I

really wanted to do it justice and do a good job. I said to myself when I went into it, 'If I like this, that's going to be OK with me. I have to be totally honest and open to it in every way.'"

Latter Days is a boy-meets-boy love story that gets in some good licks about the skeleton in the Mormon church's closet. Polygamy constitutes a very ironic message given the church's role in bankrolling the fight against same-sex marriage.

Polygamy comes up in the film when, during his trial, young Elder Davis taunts his father on the subject. He's being excommunicated for kissing his Hollywood friend. The trial is presided over by Davis' father, the church leader in their county.

Cox notes the shadow the practice casts over a little-remembered bit of Mormon history. "Polygamy was unofficial church policy until the late 1890s. There were federal troops marching on Utah. The Mormon church was preparing to go to war with the US government over their adamant belief that the government did not have the right to define marriage. So there's such irony and hypocrisy that 100 years later, having conveniently forgotten that part of their theology,

next page ►

MUSIC

Symphony looks ahead

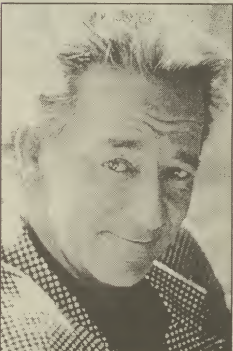
Highlights from MTT's 10th season in SF

by Philip Campbell

The San Francisco Symphony returned home this week after a triumphant domestic tour and the release of their latest compact disc. While ovations resounded in Carnegie Hall, local music-lovers were afforded a chance to take a closer look at next September and the upcoming 2004-05 season, when Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas will begin his 10th year on the podium at Davies Hall.

In keeping with his evolving profile as a dedicated leader and workman-like musician far from the theatrics and opinions of his youth, MTT will avoid much fuss about his incredible decade in the Bay Area. There will be a special concert in January celebrating his 60th birthday, but it looks like the anniversary season will mostly follow the winning formula he has developed over the past 10 years.

There are some surprises; for the first time, two major orchestras will make their tour appearances as part of the regular subscription series. Franz Welser-Möst and the Cleveland Orchestra, and Yuri Temirkanov and the St. Petersburg Philharmonic will begin what could be a most interesting tradition.



Yuri Temirkanov brings St. Pete.

A concerto and a rhapsody, written for prominent orchestra members timpanist David Herbert and English hornist Julie Ann Giacobassi by William Kraft and John Thow, will receive their world premieres. MTT has also asked Steve Reich to refashion the first part of his *The Four Sections* as a stand-alone piece titled *For Strings*, with winds and brass.

Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring* was the first piece Tilson Thomas conducted after he was named successor to Herbert Blomstedt, and his thrilling interpretation will be on the schedule, along with Beethoven's Ninth, which began his engagement in 1995. There is another returning favorite: MTT's own suite based on Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* (recorded on the orchestra's old contract with RCA).

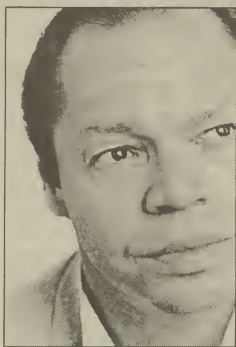
Speaking of recordings, there will be two more major Mahler symphonies: the Seventh and Ninth in the new season. Both will be released later on the Symphony's own label. The entire project so far has been a fabulous success, winning Grammys and keeping the SFS in the limelight on the international scene.

Many happy returns

Returning conductors and soloists include Conductor Laureate Herbert Blomstedt (continuing a happy annual return), David Robertson and Yan Pascal Tortelier. Itzhak Perlman will lead performances that include Dvorak's Symphony No. 9 *From the New World*. Violinists Joshua Bell, Pinchas Zukerman and Midori will take star turns, along with pianists Leif Ove Andsnes, Vladimir Feltsman, Emanuel Ax and Garrick Ohlsson.

Popular vocalists soprano Laura Claycomb (featured on the new Mahler Fourth disc), bass Sanford Sylvan and tenor Stanford Olsen also return to the scene of their previous triumphs.

Important SFS debuts include conductor Paul McCreesh, a specialist in early music; tenor Christoph Pregardien and bass-



Baritone Thomas Quasthoff debuts.

baritone Thomas Quasthoff; violinist Leonidas Kavakos and cellist Natalia Gutman.

There are a number of works receiving their first SFS performances, including the charming *Sinfonietta La Jolla* by Martinu, *Naive and Sentimental Music* by John Adams, Benjamin Britten's *Spring Symphony* and MTT's own *Island Music*. Schumann's *Das Paradies und die Peri* will allow Vance George's Symphony Chorus a chance to shine.

It's hard to believe that MTT has been here for 10 years, but then memories of Herbert Blomstedt and Edo de Waart seem a lifetime ago. Their tenures were important to the growth of the orchestra. Blomstedt was insistent on traditional performing values, and the musicians excelled in technique under his leadership, while de Waart was tireless in his promotion of new music.

Tilson Thomas seems to be the happiest combination of their virtues, and he adds another talent to the mix. He really knows how to communicate his own passion with an electrifying enthusiasm.

We will delve into specific highlights and can't-misses of next season when single-ticket sales are available in late summer, but judging from the schedule, it looks like MTT's 10th is going to be another winner. ▼

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Geary Theater
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Latter Days

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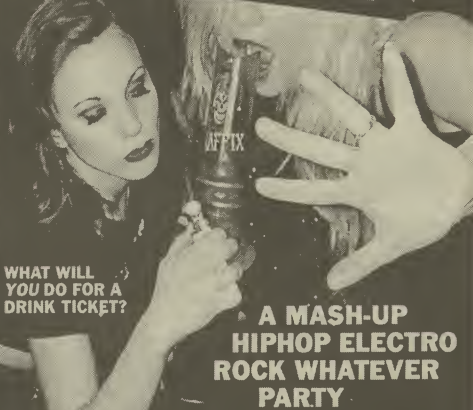
they're pouring millions of dollars into demanding that this government has the right to define marriage."

Young Sandvoss stands out in an excellent ensemble cast (including veterans Mary Kay Place and Jacqueline Bisset) for his ability to be present in the moment of every scene. While this quality comes through in startling clarity during the frequent verbal spats he has with Wes Ramsey's party-boy Christian, the best example comes from their big night in bed.

"The physical stuff happened in about three minutes, one take. C. Jay knew exactly what he wanted. It was good that we did it so quickly, because my character didn't really know what he was doing, and that showed. C. Jay said, 'OK, now you kind of have to kiss up his torso.' I was kissing up Wes' torso, and I came to his chest and I thought, 'I wonder if men kiss other men's nipples? Gee, I have no idea! I guess I'll just go for it. If it's wrong, we'll do it again.' Now the audience can know I had no idea if that was appropriate or not." ▼

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Transitioning in La Raza

'Mind If I Call You Sir?' at LGBT Center

by Kevin Davis

Mind if I Call You Sir?, a short guerrilla documentary, presents a roundtable discussion of conflicts and concerns between Latina butches and Latino FTMs. A Spanish brass instrumental introduces handsome females Olga and Ana, and muchachos Prado, Yosenio and boyish Ricky, in various stages of transition. They discourse on passing, gender-baiting, humiliation, transphobia and misconceptions on the road to liberation.

Producer Karla E. Rosales describes her film, ignited by a community scandal, as "the complex intersection of gender, racial and sexual identity through a Latino lens. An old-school dyke caused a stir. She felt, in some ways, space she carved out was usurped by younger butches transitioning into men."

Rosales approached Lancaster, California native Mary Guzman to direct the five-day shoot. Guzman made the locally-filmed queer-film-fest fave *Desi's Looking for a New Girl* (2000, in Spanglish).

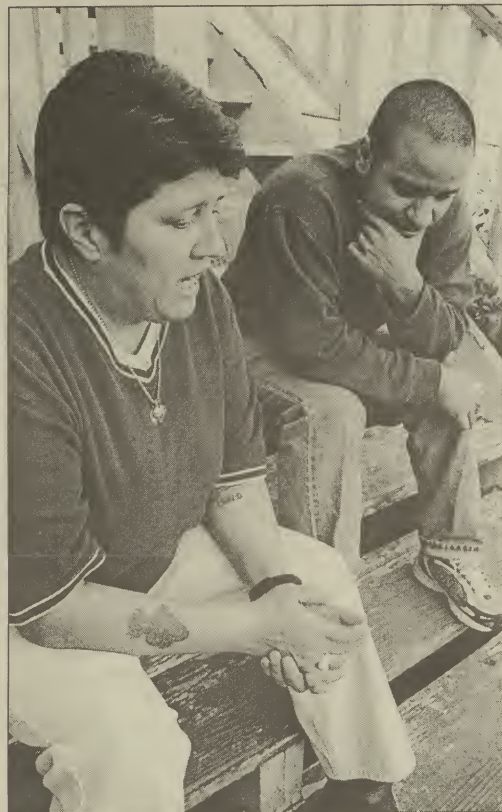
After New Langton Arts' Potrero Nuevo fund awarded second-generation Nicaraguan-American Rosales a grant, she solicited prospective participants. "They saw the need for dialogue, and came to the table to tackle issues like self-acceptance and trust. This is storytelling, an oral history project."

"I was this little thing," says Yosenio on the theme of childhood ambiguity and androgyny, while Ricky condemns "white-dominated trans space," admitting that in his earlier years, he excluded Hispanic culture to embrace queer community.

Old Valencia Street girl-bar Amelia's DJ, promoter and activist Diane (Chili D.) recalls her mother puzzling over her tomboy daughter's slicked-back hair and sideburns. We see home movies of the femmed-up young lady Chili on an outing with her mom.

"She's our history," Guzman calls Chili. "She's been around forever."

"Why do you want to turn your back on your sex, your Raza?" Chili implores the rakish, paternal trans-natural Chicano



Producer Karla E. Rosales: 'This is storytelling, an oral history project.'

Prado, paraphrasing a pervasive community attitude. "Why would you give up your womanhood? You're supposed to make babies."

Guzman intercuts photos of little-girl Prado with b&w dramatizations of him with his ex-girlfriend Mariah while he refutes Chili's conception of choice. Prado, who directs a multigender HIV-prevention education program, declares he either honestly embraces or denies his real self.

Ana temporarily transitioned non-operatively in her native El Salvador, in order to date women. Emigrating in her late teens, re-educated, she found she could come out and be a woman with a woman. "I have a choice," she affirms. "I can stay in a woman's

body."

Guzman, who, with brother Michael, Sir's cinematographer, directs commercials, employed a basic four-camera set-up: one establishing lockdown camera, and three multi-angled medium close-ups and reverse shots. The Guzmans' decision to film an interview-driven documentary in fluorescent or natural light in sometimes bright interiors overwhelms the subjects' dark complexions, slightly obscuring their faces in shadow. ▼

Mind If I Call You Sir? screens Saturday, April 3, 5:30 p.m., free, at the LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5633.

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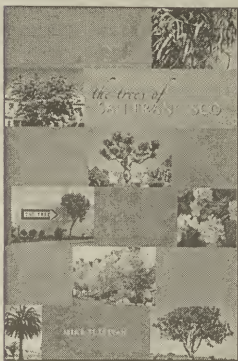
BOOKS

Local guy makes good

Mike Sullivan's 'Trees of SF' is a treasure

by Cynthia Laird

Volunteering for 12 years with the Friends of the Urban Forest, which plants trees around San Francisco, led Mike Sullivan on an unlikely path, that of a certified arborist and author. Sullivan's first book has just been published, and it is a treasure. *Trees of San Francisco*



(Pomegranate Communications Inc., \$19.95) offers an in-depth look into the many trees around the city, and includes several walking tours so that locals and visitors alike can discover the many variety of trees on their own. The book includes a healthy dose of the Castro and Noe Valley, and Sullivan tried to include local landmarks and the city's diversity in the book's many photos. The photo of a Lavalle hawthorn tree at 21st and Castro streets on page 33 includes a rainbow flag in the background. Other tree photos capture the Bay Bridge, the skyscrapers of the Financial District, and City Hall.

Sullivan, who's openly gay and an attorney, told the *Bay Area Reporter* in a recent interview that volunteering for FUF and spending Saturday mornings planting trees ultimately led to the book. He and his partner, Paul Loeffler, live in Parnassus Heights and just became proud dads. Sullivan dedicated the book to their son, Joseph. He also planted a tree on his property to celebrate his son's birth: a soapbark.

"I like the idea of tree diversity," Sullivan said of San Francisco's urban landscape. "Most trees do well here. The trick is to plant trees that don't break the sidewalk."

The book was about a two-year project, Sullivan explained. Arthur Lee, author of *Trees of Seattle*, first



Author Sullivan: against pruning.

pitched the idea for a book to Sullivan. Lee and Scot Medbury, executive director of Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, spent time reviewing the manuscript, Sullivan noted in his preface. It took Sullivan about a year to write the book, and another year for him and Jaime Pandolfo to take the photographs, though Sullivan said that Pandolfo did the majority of photography work.

The several walking tours featured in the book offer a chance for people to experience some of the city's neighborhoods. Each tour has a map with locations of the featured trees. The Castro, Sullivan notes, "has a nationwide reputation as the center of the city's gay and lesbian community [and] has more than its fair share of landmark trees fronting the Victorian homes that line its streets."

In terms of the city's plan to plant more trees in the Castro, Sullivan came down firmly on the side of ginkgos.

"I'm pro-ginkgo," he laughed.

Sullivan added that when the palm trees were planted along upper Market Street in the Castro, some people complained. But he thinks they add to the city's character.

"I think they're great," Sullivan said. "They are Canary Island palms that I think people start to associate with San Francisco. They look great along Market Street and the Embarcadero."

One of the perks of being an author is to state your views, and Sullivan indulges in telling readers his two biggest gripes: planting lavender, rosemary, and ivy in the tree basin (the plants' aggressive roots compete with the tree for water and nutrients) and aggressive pruning (let your tree grow, he writes, and help create a mature canopy your neighbors will appreciate.)

Sullivan will be appearing at several events this month celebrating the book's release: Thursday, April 8, 6:30-8 p.m., Book Bay bookstore in the San Francisco Main Library, 100 Larkin St.; Sat., April 10, 1 p.m., recreation room of the SF County Fair Building, adjacent to Strybing Arboretum in Golden Gate Park, 9th Ave. and Lincoln Way; Wednesday, April 21, 12:30-1:30 p.m. at Stacey's Bookstore, 581 Market St.; and, of course, Arbor Day, Friday, April 30, 6 p.m. at Cover to Cover Bookstore, 1307 Castro Street in Noe Valley. ▼

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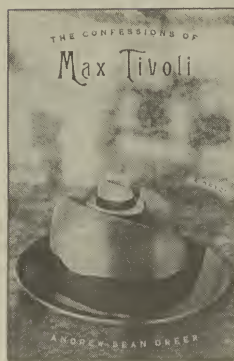
Back to the future

by Robert Julian

The Confessions of Max Tivoli by Andrew Sean Greer; Farrar, Straus, Giroux, \$23

From the opening pages of *The Confessions of Max Tivoli*, the reader knows he is heading into uncharted territory. The central conceit of Andrew Sean Greer's novel is that his protagonist, Max, is born with a condition in which he ages in reverse. At birth, Max has the features of a 70-year-old man. As he ages, he actually grows younger. At the age of 30, Max's looks match his chronological age, but as he grows old he gradually shrinks into the immature image of an 11-year-old boy, complete with a high-pitched voice that belies his advanced age.

As an aged man with the face of an 11-year-old, Max sits down to write his memoirs, telling the story of a great love that was won and lost, and a life led as an outsider. Author Greer is a San Francisco writer, and most of the action of *Confessions* takes place in Greer's hometown, beginning in 1871 with Max's birth. Born to wealth on San Francisco's fashionable South Park, Max is sheltered by his parents to help him avoid the harsh assessments of his



peers and strangers. But as a young man, he finds one true friend in Hughie Dempsey, someone who will keep Max's secret condition to himself. Max also falls in love with 14-year-old Alice Levy, who lives downstairs. Max, Alice and Hughie travel on circuitous, interlocking journeys for the rest of their lives, and, at the end of the novel, they find themselves together one last time.

Among Greer's many accomplishments, he manages to infuse his novel with a consistent sense of longing from the beginning. Life would be so much easier, and Max would be so much happier, if

he could only be "normal." But this is not in the cards for Max, and his relations with the outside world will always be colored by his unusual condition. There are many humorous moments and unexpected revelations, including a gay subplot, but through it all, Max's first-person memoir overflows with a wistful sadness.

Early in life, Max's mother encourages him to "be what they think you are," and Max takes this advice to heart. As a result, he spends most of his life pretending to be something he is not. History and psychology both seem to agree that a life led on such terms is destined for misery. Yet Greer's delicate prose dances along the precipice of despair without falling off the edge and wallowing in the depths. Despite a couple of suicides, Max's memoirs have a curiously optimistic impact. It is as if by writing his story, Max might someday lead others to a larger understanding.

At the beginning of the book, Max asserts that "We are each the love of someone's life." Andrew Sean Greer, through a series of narrative twists, demonstrates this principal beautifully. *The Confessions of Max Tivoli* is an expertly written, completely original work of fiction that is destined to stand the test of time. ▼



Untitled (1999), a large-scale color photograph by Adi Nes, after Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

Adi Nes

Arts cover

tographed for *Vogue Hommes International*, but these are not your mother's idea of fashion photos. A lineup of handsome handcuffed men in black file past a forbidding-looking wall topped with spirals of barbed wire. Identical twin prisoners sit handcuffed side-by-side on a prison bunk.

Elsewhere in the gallery, Nes' camera gazes longingly at the handsome faces of sleeping soldiers on a bus, or caresses the dozing bodies of half-clothed young men on bunks or on the floor, viewed from the soles of their feet or the tops of their heads, in the Mantegna-like perspective of the early Renaissance. A softly lit "Narcissus" admires his own reflection in a black pool of water, and one wounded soldier cradles another in his arms a la *Pieta*.

Red china

Of course, the soldiers are not actual soldiers, and the prison in-

mates are as real as those in a Jeff Stryker video. In the *Vogue* series, the clothes are by haute couture designers. Hence the title, *Between Promise and Possibility*, which speaks of the cinematic nature of the photographs. It should be noted that the images are not manipulated beyond the artifice of their staging. *The Last Supper* took two months to set up, after the right derelict building was identified, the appropriate uniforms were located, and the perfect red china was arranged on just the right table.

The photographs also reflect myths of same-sex experience, desired but not realized, and they relate directly to the artist's upbringing as a closeted gay man in Israel. One photo that implies imminent gang rape (and is based, Dr. Cornell told me, on a Rembrandt composition of "The Blinding of Samson") was staged in the artist's hometown, Kiryat Gat, rather than the city of Tel Aviv, the location of most of the other photographs. His adolescent desire, deferred rather than

acted upon, is the longing of Jean Genet fiction or Derek Jarman films. Now 38, Nes has found an artistic outlet for his childhood dreams.

Does this rare installation of contemporary photos point toward things to come for the Fine Arts Museums? Cornell notes that the new de Young will indeed have an emphasis on contemporary work. Is there competition going on among the museums of San Francisco? Cornell would not say, precisely, but he does acknowledge that in the Fine Arts Museums, unlike at SFMOMA, the viewer has the benefit of being able to compare traditional paintings from the history of Western art to contemporary, and clearly derivative works like Nes', simply by walking from gallery to gallery. Give us more of this, please! ▼

Between Promise and Possibility is on view at the Legion of Honor through July 18. www.legionofhonor.org (415) 750-3614

Under the volcanoes

Castro hosts 'A Thousand Clouds of Peace'

by David Lamble

In the opening scene of Julian Hernandez's exquisitely filmed first feature, *A Thousand Clouds of Peace* (opening Friday at the Castro Theatre), a 17-year-old boy is doing what 17-year-old boys around the planet are uncommonly good at: administering a blow job in the front seat of the kind of mid-range sedan favored by rental-car companies. Given a piece of tissue to wipe the cum from his lips and a couple of bills to pay for his time, Gerardo's eyes reflect the pain and disappointment of a soul literally sick for love.

Gerardo is sick missing the love of his ex, Bruno, and for most of the film he wanders the streets of Mexico City looking for men to fill the void, men who are mostly hungry mouths and needy crotches. Juan Carlos Ortuno, as Gerardo, does a heroic job of filling 82 minutes of screentime with a convincing variety of hangdog looks.

Director Hernandez shrewdly employs soft-focus black-and-white images to block out the carnal pulse of the one of the world's great fleshpots of a city, allowing Gerardo to feel alone in a beehive of 10 million lost souls. *A Thousand Clouds of Peace* shimmers as a collection of ineffable images. All bodies become the perfect body, flawless skin is perfectly lit, a boy sees the lost lover in the face



Gerardo (Juan Carlos Ortuno) wanders the streets of Mexico City.

of every other man.

Sadly, poetic language that outstays its welcome on screen tends to ripen and rot before our eyes. While I appreciate director Hernandez's deft flaunting of the longtime screen taboo against "self-abuse," beautifully filmed masturbation does not a feature film make. Gerardo badly needs something to do with his time besides treating the downtown poolhall where he works as a horny teenager's version of Manpower. There's a reason why so many films resort to corny genre plot devices: a film needs forward momentum, something to rouse the hero from his catatonic state. Gerardo could have been a pimp, a hustler, a numbers runner. With the lean torso of a novice featherweight, the hard knocks he absorbs under a freeway overpass could have taken place in a ring.

In one scene, Gerardo does

flash a winning smile and display some of the boy charm that might have convinced Bruno to hang around between blow jobs. Looking for an obscure record, the soundtrack of a movie where a promising diva lets her career get swallowed up in booze and self-indulgence, Gerardo softly sings the lyrics for the young woman running the flea market.

I confess I had a hard time figuring out which character was Bruno. So many men and vastly too much time. As Gerardo hangs over a freeway overpass for the 50th time, I found myself counting the high number of Volkswagens whizzing by.

For a glimpse of an equally poetic but more plot-driven film about a gay boy lost in the big city, check out Edgar Michael Bravo's underappreciated 1994 feature, *I'll Love You Forever...* Tonight. ▼



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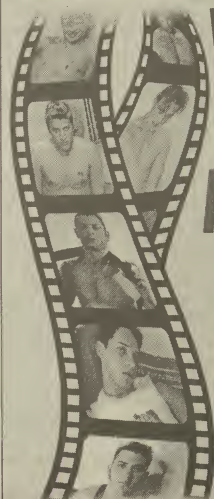
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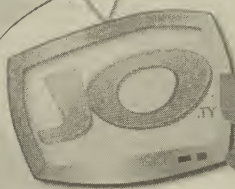
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Mission groove

If I could be a full-time groupie, I'd follow the **Garrin Benfield Band** to every gig. I've tried over the years, but by now I've missed a few thousand shows. That's what happens when musicians you know and love "make it" in the biz. Garrin, either solo or with his band — Joshua Zucker on upright bass; Michael Rodriguez on keyboards; Russ Gold on drums; Garrin on lead vocals, guitar and loop machine — has been touring non-stop for years up and down the West Coast, often with Boz Scaggs, and has conquered pretty much all the Southwest, Deep South, Eastern Seaboard, and (where he'll be from mid-April to early May) New York City and New England. Every time I catch the band live they're innovating, experimenting, shifting directions and amazing the audience. For instance, Garrin's recent duet with fellow blazing guitarist Eric McFadden on stage at Cafe Du Nord made guitar history for its intensity. No three-chord punk songs here. We're talking serious musicianship.

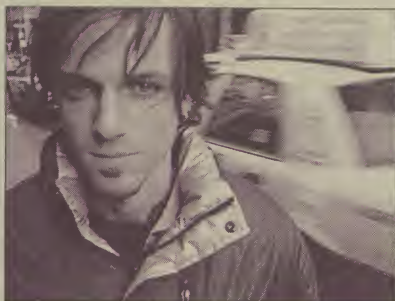
Garrin's next big gig comes up this **Saturday, April 3** at the newly refurbished **12 Galaxies** nightclub in the Mission, as Family Productions, Zacksongs Music & JPC Records Presents "**Mission Family Groove**" a live-music, art and activism festival benefiting the SFSUSD's School of the Arts, a high school that specializes in creative and independent thinking and artistic and academic excellence. The groove offers multiple stages, artists' displays, and tables for nonprofit political groups Rock the Vote; Little Kids Rock; Bread & Roses, Not In Our Name; Our City; Global Exchange; and PAWS (Pets Are Wonderful Support). There'll be plenty of eye-candy, not just among the crowd (mixed), but on the walls, where you can admire art by Burning Man photographer Rob Corwin, painter Tim Donovan, Chris Piallat, Cara Gayle, Melody Houser, and Joshua Smith (who produces magnificent photo montages/mosaics by taking innumerable shots of flickers at faerie gatherings, cutting them up, and meticulously re-assembling them large-scale).

Sharing the main stage with the Garrin Benfield Band (garrin.com) will be fellow headliners **Hyim & The Fat Foakland Orchestra** (sexy samba and funky back-beat rhythms in a tight urban world groove; with drummer Michael Faiella, bassist Mark Calderon, and percussionist Ajayi Jackson; www.hyimvibe.com); and the **JP Cutler Band** (led by a Minnesota-born singer/guitarist who blends his Americana musical upbringing with his love of ambient music; deft finger-picking reminiscent of Leo Kottke; www.jpcrecords.com).

More great live music will come from the side stages with Holcombe Waller, Paige, and Wendy de Rosa.

This concert marks the release of Garrin's latest CD, *August Live*, a compilation of live material from his Summer tour with Boz Scaggs. ▼

Tickets to "Mission Family Groove" are \$8. Showtime is 8:30 p.m. 12 Galaxies, 2565 Mission St. Tix: 415-309-9240; www.virtuoustix.com



Garrin Benfield joins with JP Cutler, Hyim and other acts and artists for a "Mission Family Groove" at 12 Galaxies nightclub this Saturday. See "Calendare".

Eri

'A Man of No Importance' @ NCTC

Now playing: The New Conservatory theatre Center presents the West Coast Premiere of the musical *A Man of No Importance*, stage directed by George Quirk with music direction by Barry Koron. The book is by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Based on the 1994 Albert Finney film of the same title, *A Man of No Importance* tells the tender story of Alfie Byrne, a middle-aged Dublin bus conductor. Featuring Arthur Scappaticci as Alfie. \$18-\$28. Thu-Sat 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Thru March 11. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 861-8972; nctc.org

'Remembering Marlon Riggs' @ Pacific Film Archive

Pacific Film Archive Presents "Remembering Marlon Riggs" Presented with the Graduate School of Journalism. Hosted by Herman Gray and Patricia Turner. Special Guests: Tom Goldstein, Sam Green. With his undaunted vision, Marlon Riggs could stir you like a force of nature. His resonant yet controversial body of work, which includes *Tongues Untied*, *Black Is, Black Ain't*, and *Ethnic Notions*, was groundbreaking in its unflinching ability to address black identity. These videos served both as banners of social defiance and as audaciously original media works. Riggs was many things: a professor in the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley, a prolific media artist with poetic inclinations, and most particularly, for gay black men. On this tenth anniversary of his death, Pacific Film Archive remembers Riggs's bold legacy by asking artists and academics who knew him to share their recollections. They will also screen his most notorious work, *Tongues Untied* (1989; 55 mins; from *Sig-nifyin' Works*), an entrancing glimpse into the lives of gay black men. Preceded by shorts: *Anthem* (Marlon Riggs, 1991) and *Tongues Deep Fried* (Jeanne Finley, Lynn Kirby, 1993). 7:30pm. The Pacific Film Archive theater, 2575 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. Info: 510/642-1412; bamfpa.berkeley.edu

'Skydancers' @ Dance Mission Theater

Dance Brigade presents "Skydancers...Women Who Fly Through the Air!" More than 12 artists and groups drawn from the modern-dance, aerial and circus school communities work with equipment that includes trapezes, hoops, bungees, ropes of all kinds and other apparatus. This year's festival honors women with cancer. \$18 adv; \$20 day of show. 8pm April 2-3; 6pm April 4; 8pm April 9-10; 6pm April 11. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. Tix: 415-273-4633; www.dancemission.com

Mad Magda's 'Seance' @ Soluna

Mad Magda's "Seance," a mystical party. Denise of dharma music and creator of the "Seance" parties joins with Lucien Stern creator of the irreverent and legendary Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room to create "Mad Magda's Seance." Experience a magical evening of Tarot, Henna Design and the mystical beats of DJ Sep plus surprise entertainment. \$5 b4 10:30 (after 10:30 tbd). 9:30-2am. Soluna, 272 McAllister @ Larkin. Guestlist info: dharma_music@hotmail.com

Potluck Shabbat Dinner @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Bring your favorite vegetarian dish — salads, main courses, sides and desserts — for sharing at the Shabbat table, as our LGBTQ community gathers to celebrate the beginning of Shabbat. We are seeking ways to build connections among the members of the congregation, especially to bring prospective and newer members together with longer-term members to enjoy each others' company and to become better acquainted. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav is a progressive Reform synagogue, established in 1977. We are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and heterosexual Jews, together with lovers, family and friends, both Jewish and non-Jewish. We come from a wide range of religious, ethnic, class and cultural backgrounds to worship God with an egalitarian, feminist and gay-positive Jewish liturgy. We welcome all who wish to join us for worship, learning and celebration with our rabbi, Camille Shira Angel. Our synagogue is located at 290 Dolores Street (at 16th St.). 6:30pm. Info: shaarzahav.org

Ralph Steele

@ Unitarian Center

San Francisco Zen Center's "Body, Breath, Mind" series presents Ralph Steele, who after acquiring a heroin habit while serving as a helicopter gunner in Vietnam, beat the habit through Buddhist discipline, studying under Soygal Rinpoche, HH The Dalai Lama, Lama Thubten Yeshe, Jack Kornfield, Ram Dass, Richard Baker Roshi, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross and many more. He is an African American Theravada Buddhist teacher and licensed marriage & family therapist. \$16. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix: 415-863-3133; membership@sfzc.org

'Latter Days'

Maitri benefit @ Embarcadero Cinema

Opening night gala for the hot gay film *Latter Days* by C. Jay Cox (*Sweet Home Alabama*), a benefit for Maitri Compassionate Care. Includes reception with the stars and director. Story: Christian (Wes Ramsey), a hunky 20-something WeHo party boy, gets more than he bargains for when he tries to seduce 19-year-old Elder Aaron Davis (Steve Sandness), a sexually confused Mormon missionary who moves into his apartment complex. Meet director/producer Cox, actors Ramsey and Sandness, and

special guest actress Jacqueline Bisset. \$25 gen'l; \$40 'Friend of Maitri'; \$100 'Sponsor of Maitri'. 7pm. Tix: Matt Gibson, Maitri, 415-558-3011; mgbison@maitri-isf.org

'Return of Mondo Porno' @ Cat Club

Paradox Media and Lu Read/DrugStrip In association with Editrix Abby present "The Return of Mondo Porno" at the Cat Club, offering raunchy rock & roll, sexy strippers and free porn (of all varieties). Live rock line-up includes Fluff Grizz, Crumpled Napkin, Tribe 8 and The Love-makers. In between each band will be a bit of bawdy burlesque featuring Roky Roulette, The Indra and Dee Deeluxe. The bands and dancers will appear in the back room, following an 8:30pm screening of Debbie Does Dallas. Pom-poms optional. In the front room: DJs Pinky Ring and Jules spin sex rock, dance romance and makeout music. Perverts can pose with sexy Selina Raven and pulchritudinous Polly Pandemonium, receive naughty birthday spankings from felled genderfucker Whacked Willy or query MyPleasure.com's Sex Doc Sandor Gardos with kinky questions. Mix, mingle and pick up some salacious swag. \$10 w/flip or printout, \$15 w/o. Doors at 8pm; movie at 8:30; Bands at 10; open till 3am. Cat Club, 1190 Folsom St. at 8th. DrugStrip Hotline: 415-282-5378; mondopornoparty.com

'Queer Vision' @ Trax

Queer Vision (formerly Queers for Matt) gather with the Gay Artists Writers Collective (a loosely connected social group of people in the arts). Musicians, writers, editors, wannabe publishers are urged to attend. DJ Jon Sugar is off the hook with rock, soul, and eclectic. 9pm to Midnight. Trax, 1437 Haight St. at Ashbury. Info: 415-731-2424.

Sat

'Flaming Iguanas'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Opening Night: Theatre Rhinoceros presents *Flaming Iguanas*, a world premiere play based on the novel by Erika Lopez, adapted & directed by John Fisher & Duca Knezevic. In *Flaming Iguanas*, the ultimate sea-to-shining-sea all-girl adventure, we follow the exploits of Tomatito Rodriguez, a Puerto Rican, New Jersey girl riding her motorcycle across the country in search of good sex, and learning first hand what it takes to be bisexual, biracial, bisexual, and a biker. By the time Tomatito rolls into SF, she has decided to sleep with men, not to sleep with men, prayed for a bisexual role model, and figured out that who she is, is whatever she makes up that day. In this unique Road Trip production, the action of the play will take place in various spaces in and around the building that is home to Theatre Rhinoceros. \$15-\$25 (pay what you wish at previews). 8pm. Play runs April 1-24. Showtimes: Wed.-Sat. @ 8pm; Sun. Eves @ 7pm; Sun. Mats @ 3pm (April 10 & 18). Straight Night Out: Thurs. April 15 @ 8pm. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. (Mission & So. Van Ness). Tix/info: 861-5079; therhino.org

Hyena Comedy

@ Hyena Theater

The Hyena Comedy Showcase features up-and-coming local stand-up comedians. Check out Enzo Lombard-Quintero, Kelly Doyle, Carol Andresz, John Ruzicka, Asa Whillcock, Michelle Gray, Tamara Kay, and more. \$6. 8:30pm. Hyena Theater, 2390 Mission, 3rd floor (corner of 20th and Mission). Tix/info: 415-821-3601.

'St. Joan of the Stockyards'

@ Venue 9

Custom Made Theatre Company presents Bertolt Brecht's *Saint Joan of the Stockyards*, transla-



The Shotgun Players inaugurate free performances with *Moliere's The Miser* at the Julia Morgan Center in Berkeley. See Monday.

tion by Ralph Manheim, a wickedly funny, politically challenging play with music that takes the legendary story of Joan of Arc and turns it on its head. Brecht's Joan is now Joan Dark, who battles the Chicago meat-king, Piermont Mauler, to save poor workers from his exploitations. Like the Joan of history, she is quickly betrayed by those she tries to help. Original music by Christine McCintock (*Rocket Girl*); direction by Brian Katz (*Animal Farm*). \$18 gen'l; \$15 student/senior. 8pm Fri. & Sat.; 2pm Sun. Thru April 25. Venue 9, 252 9th St. (at Folsom). Tix: 866-468-3399; ticketweb.com. Info: custom-made.org

The Mirth Brokers + Dixieland Dykes @ The Center

Thriving in SF presents The Mirth Brokers, Laughing Stock's performance appendage, with The Dixieland Dykes + 3, "The Old World Band with the New Math Problem," in an afternoon showcase of improvisational comedy and musical mayhem. Laughing Stock is a community service program of the BATS IMPROV School of Improv, now in its sixth year of providing free classes to people living with life-threatening, chronic illness. The Mirth Brokers is directed by Gerri Lawlor, accompanied by Joshua Raoul Brody. The Dixieland Dykes Jazz ensemble plays songs from the SF Lesbian/Gay Freedom Band & City Swing. A fragrance-free event. \$10 donation. 2pm. Rainbow Room, LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. (at Octavia).

Davina Kotulski, Ph.D @ The Center

Book Release/Signing Party. Marriage Equality California (MECA) and Betty's List present a special book release and book signing party for the marriage manifesto *Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage* by Davina Kotulski, Ph.D. and MECA Board member. Featuring cabaret singing, book reading, light refreshments and politics galore! When Britney Spears walked out of that wedding chapel in Las Vegas after her little "marriage incident," she immediately had access to over 1,300 rights and privileges that are not available to a gay and lesbian couple for over 50 years. But, according to George Bush, the sanctity of Britney's union must be preserved, even at the cost of the U.S. Constitution. Author and activist Davina Kotulski thinks this doesn't quite make sense. In her book, *Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage*, she spells it out in plain English, and tells you what you can do about it. \$25-\$50 sliding (includes a signed copy of the book). 5pm-7pm. LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market St. @ Octavia. RSVP: email davina@marriageequalityca.org; or go to evite.com (under lifestyles: gay & lesbian)

SFinX:

'Gettin' Hot N' Queer'

@ Jon Sims Center

Jon Sims Center and SFinX (San Francisco in Exile) present the Trans Rap Show "Gettin' Hot N' Queer". Featuring queer/trans-

identified rap artists whose performances will be recorded for the SFinX online archive at SFinX.org. This show will mark the SFinX series' third anniversary of bi-monthly shows with a lineup of hot local young talents including JenRo, a nationally celebrated rapper working on her debut album "The Revelation"; Robosapien, a hip-hop/dance-ability team with irresistible beats (gorobosapien.com — formerly The Dumb Bees); the Real McKnight, known for "drunk feminist raps"; the Urban Hermit; a stunning freestyler "Girlfriend Magazine's 'boffriend of the month'"; Scarlett (AKA Jacob Perez), both a hip-hop artist and producer of a documentary on transboys of color; and lastly Katastrope (AKA Rocco Kaylato), whose performance the Texas Triangle described as having "a snipser's sense of wit, coupled with a barely tamped rage." Katastrope joins with other Ricky Lee to curate this show. The evening's host Exodius (Liquid Fire, National Queer Arts Festival, Da Words So Good) will charm the audience with her well-known sass, wit and grace. \$7-\$12 sliding (NOTAFOF). 8pm. The Jon Sims Center is an all-ages, accessible art space located at 1519 Mission St. (btwn 11th St. & South Van Ness, near Civic Center BART). Call 415-554-0402 in advance for wheelchair access. Tix at door.

Wig Making @ Kryolan

Learn the complex and time consuming art of wig making with instructor Judy Disbrow. This class is designed with step-by-step instructions in ventilating, construction of wig foundation, and single and double knotting, how to properly size a wig and more. \$395. 8:30am refreshments; 9am class. Kryolan, 132 Ninth St. Info: Dominic at 415-863-9684; kryolan.com

Left Coast Chamber Ensemble @ The LAB

LAB composer-in-residence Beth Custer hosts members of the Left Coast Chamber Ensemble to celebrate the world premiere of her "Bernal Heights Suite for String Quartet." Plus Gyorgy Ligeti's *String Quartet No. 1*, "Metamorphoses nocturnes." \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. 2948 16th St. Tix: 415-864-8855; thelab.org

'Birthday Blowout!'

@ Mezzanine

Mezzanine celebrates its first year of hot nights, endless weekends, sexy boys and mind-blowing music with a gigantic "Birthday Blowout!" On the decks, fierce-ruling resident DJ Chris Cox kicks off the night with an electrifying set starting promptly at 10pm. Arrive early, claim your spot and prepare to be lifted as Chris ignites the dance floor with his blazing sounds. Then into afterhours with cover boy DJ Jamie J Sanchez at 2am for more dance-floor naughtiness. Live on stage, witness the dawn of a new era with the new Industry Dancers. Buy a VIP ticket and hob nob with these sexy boys in the VIP lounge. \$10 gen'l; \$30 VIP. 440 Jesse St. (at Mimi). Tix: groovetickets.com. Info: mezzaninefest.com

'Lens Culture'**@ Herbst Theater**

Humanities West presents "Lens Culture: the impact of photography on modern life," bringing to the stage world-class speakers delivering in-depth insights on photography's incalculable historical impact. Introduction by Sandra Phillips, Senior Curator of Photography at SFMOMA. Illustrated lectures by Dr. Weston Naef, Curator of Photographs, the J. Paul Getty Museum; Dr. John R. Grunsfeld, multiple journey NASA astronaut who repaired the Hubble Telescope in space; Dr. Elizabeth Daley, Dean of the School of Cinema-Television at USC; and author/photographer William Carter. Demo by Tracy Storey of the huge 20"x24" Polaroid camera, of which only a few exist in the world. \$20-\$35. 10am-4:30pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. (near McAllister). Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400; cityboxoffice.com. Info: humanitieswest.org

Fun**'Pride of Palm Sunday'****@ Glide Church**

Special celebration: "Pride of Palm Sunday." Come together with those who were prevented from being married, those who were married, and all who affirm love, equality and spirit. Blessings and affirmation will be bestowed by the Rev. Cecil Williams and Pastor Douglas Fitch with music by the Glide Ensemble and the Change Band. Glide United Methodist Church, 330 Ellis St. RSVP: 415-674-6004; www.glide.org

SF Hiking Club**@ Butano State Park**

Join other outdoors lovers for a Butano State Park Hike. Hike through Douglas fir/redwood forest and up to a chaparral ridge with knobcone pines, scrub oaks, manzanita and chinquapin where the group will have lunch, returning through the cool forests. A moderate 10-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; sfhiking.com

Outlook Video @ Comcast Channel 29

"Outlook Video," since 1987 the Bay's best LGBT cable show. This month: extensive coverage of the gay weddings at SF City Hall. Plus, Rev. Gerry Brague discusses being an out gay minister in a primarily straight church. 5pm on Comcast Channel 29 in SF. For info on East Bay/South Bay/Sacramento airings, visit OutlookVideo.org

'K'vetsh' @ Sadie's Flying Elephant

"K'vetsh," queer spoken word and open mic (first Sunday of every month), hosted by Lynn Breedlove and Tara Jepsen. \$1-\$3 donation. Sign-ups at 7:30pm; show at 8pm. Sadie's Flying Elephant bar, 491 Potrero (corner of Mariposa).

Mon**Buddha's Birthday @ Q-Sangha**

Buddha's Birthday: A Queer Celebration of Interfaith Spirituality. All are welcome to join Q-Sangha at MCC-SF for this beautiful Blessing Ceremony in honor of Buddha's Birthday (coinciding this year with Passover, Holy Week, and the first Full Moon of Spring). Music, Meditation, Candlelight Prayers, Blessing Ritual, Dance, Inspirational Words. 100 persons expected. Free (donations appreciated). 7-9pm. Metropolitan Community Church of SF, 150 Eureka St. at 18th St. (in the Castro). Info: www.qsangha.org

'The Miser'**@ Julia Morgan Center, Berkeley**

Opening night: The Shotgun Players embark on a five-year residency at The Julia Morgan Center for the Arts — now as a free-admission theatre company (pass-the-hat donations after the show). Kicking off their 2004-05 season tonight is *The Miser*, by Moliere, translated by David Chambers, directed by Shotgun Artistic Director Patrick Dooley. *The Miser* is Moliere's rollicking sex and money farce. "Greed is good!" Harpagon, arguably the stingiest creature in stage history, is so vile he starves his horses, refuses to pay his staff, and pimps out his children for a profit. We had to ask ourselves, "Why is it such a guilty pleasure to cheer for someone so nasty?" Free! 8pm. 2640 College Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley. Tix: 510-704-8210; shotgunplayers.org



The Joe Goode Performance Group serves up sensuous delights as part of the vibrant "San Francisco Treasure Series" at The Marsh. See Wednesday.

rected by Shotgun Artistic Director Patrick Dooley. *The Miser* is Moliere's rollicking sex and money farce. "Greed is good!" Harpagon, arguably the stingiest creature in stage history, is so vile he starves his horses, refuses to pay his staff, and pimps out his children for a profit. We had to ask ourselves, "Why is it such a guilty pleasure to cheer for someone so nasty?" Free! 8pm. 2640 College Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley. Tix: 510-704-8210; shotgunplayers.org

Tue**Marcus Shelby Septet @ Jazz At Intersection**

Intersection's Resident Composer Marcus Shelby and his new Septet perform compositions by Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers, often cited as the creators of Hard Bop and incomparably influential to generations of musicians. Material to be performed ranges from the 1950's band with Horace Silver to the 1960s band with Wayne Shorter to the 1980's band with Wynton Marsalis. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Tix: 415-626-3311; theintersection.org

Wed**Joe Goode Performance Group @ The Marsh**

The Marsh, a breeding ground for new performance, presents The Joe Goode Performance Group as part of the "San Francisco Treasure Series" showcasing the latest work from local artists whose visions have been nurtured on the Marsh's stage since it was founded in 1989. Choreographer Joe Goode's acclaimed company has been the artist/dance group-in-residence at The Marsh for the past three years and develops its work in The Marsh Studio. Goode has spent the last 20 years synthesizing a genre of dance theater combining text, gestures, and humor with his own deeply physical, high velocity dancing. \$25-\$50. 8pm. 1062 Valencia St. (btwn 21st & 22nd sts). Tix/info: 415-826-5750; themarsh.org

Scott Capurro's 'Loaded' @ ODC Theater

Opening night: Scott Capurro's new play, *Loaded*. With Scott Capurro and Reid Gilbert, directed by Kim Porter. Opening night sponsored by KLLC Alice @ 97.3, benefiting the Haight Ashbury Clinic. In his new play, Capurro engages in a wickedly indulgent affair of letters with the incarcerated, insular Erik Menendez, while cautiously cruising a car salesman with a glandular problem. In this hilarious foray into mishapen lives and misguided love, Capurro ponders the age old question, why do we fall for the wrong people? Tickets to Opening Night, April 7 @ 8pm are \$35. \$18 gen'l. Thu-Sun, April 7-11 Thu-Sat, April 13-17 8pm. ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Box Office: 415-863-9834 (open Wed -

Sat 2-5pm).

Queer Swing @ The Center

Queer Jitterbugs presents Queer Swing Classes. No partner or experience needed. 7pm basic Lindy Hop Swing (4-week class series); 8pm Lindy Hop Level 2 (drop-in class). \$13 (under 21 half off). \$40 for 4 week series (prepay & get half off the 2 monthly dances with Queer Dance Pass card). SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 415-305-8242; queerjitterbugs.com

Davina Kotulski @ Magnet

A Different Light Bookstore presents Davina Kotulski, your secret chance this week to catch her reading and get a copy of *Why You Should Give A Damn About Gay Marriage*. Free. 5:30pm at Magnet, 4122 18th St. (across from Badlands).

Kyra Nichols & Sally Streets @ SFPALM

San Francisco Performing Arts Library & Museum, in tandem with its new exhibition *George Balanchine: Ballet Master*, presents "A Conversation with Kyra Nichols and Sally Streets." Berkeley native Nichols, the brilliant star of the NYC Ballet now celebrating her 30th year with the company, and her mother Sally Streets, the renowned teacher who danced with NYCB in the 1950s, make a rare joint appearance to discuss their careers with Balanchine curator Cheryl Flatow. \$15 gen'l; \$10 students/SFPALM members. 7pm. SFPALM, Veterans Bldg., 4th floor, 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix: 415-255-4800; sfpalm.org

Inner Peace @ Quan Yin Healing Arts Center

Kadampa Buddhism meditation class with Kelsang Tekchog. Based on a time-honored Mahayana Buddhist tradition. These ongoing drop-in classes included guided meditation, a teaching on an aspect of Buddhist philosophy, and question time. All welcome. 7:30-9pm. 455 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Info: 585-9161; kadampas.org

Thu**'Queer Crips'**

@ ACWLP for Books A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books presents a reading and signing with co-editors Bob Guter and John R. Killackey and other local contributors to *Queer Crips: Disabled Gay Men and Their Stories*. This groundbreaking new Hawthorth Press anthology has been nominated for a Lambda Literary Award. Free. 7pm. 601 Van Ness Ave. Info: 441-6670.

Aaron Hamburger @ The Booksmith

Reading/booksigning: *The View From Stalin's Head*. Come hear Aaron Hamburger read from his first book, a story collection, set in post-Cold War Prague — the real Prague — a magnet not only for artists and writers, but also for American tourists and post-college deadbeats; a place both glorified and mocked by its history, its citizens both resentful of and nostalgic for their Communist past. Free. 7pm The Booksmith 1644 Haight St. Info: 415 863-8688; aaronhamburger.com

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'Bling BIASian Bling' @ Luggage Store Gallery

Opening reception: "Bling BIASian Bling," new work by Iona rozeal brown and STELLA LAI, curated by Darryl Smith/Laurie Lazer. Featuring work that incorporates traditional African American and Asian elements, forms and techniques to comment upon and explore socio-cultural & socio-political issues. Iona rozeal brown's paintings portray anonymous courtesans, geisha, and Japanese gangsters in blackface. Brown's work addresses the global influence of hip-hop, commercialism, appropriation and African-American culture as fetish. Her "w.o.i.m.s." (worms) are an acronym for "Weapons of Mass Spending." The worms are armed only with a mouthful of rotting teeth, and an occasional gold cap, as they greedily feast on all manner of material culture, particularly the trendy accessories of hip-hop. STELLA LAI, whose work is informed and influenced by graphic design and typography, works with three "girl" characters wearing animal masks — a rabbit, a bear and a cat. The characters were inspired by The Monkey King story, where human characters adopt animal traits. Lai's characters retrace childhood memories and explore issues of sexuality, isolation and vengeance. Referencing her native Hong Kong's chaotic urban landscape, Lai makes comparisons to several urban centers in the U.S. — SF's Chinatown and LA's Chinatown. Free. 6-8pm. Show runs April 8-May 8. The Luggage Store Gallery, 1007 Market St. Info: 415-255-5971; luggagestore-gallery.org

'Break the Silence' @ Eagle Tavern Benefit show for the Break the Silence Palestinian Mural Project with Susan Greene from Jews for a Free Palestine and the mural project and Dalit from Black Laundry (Israel's queers against the occupation project). Music by The Quails, Tartuffi, Crime in Choir, Criminal Love. 8 pm. Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. @ Harrison. Info: www.sfeagle.com

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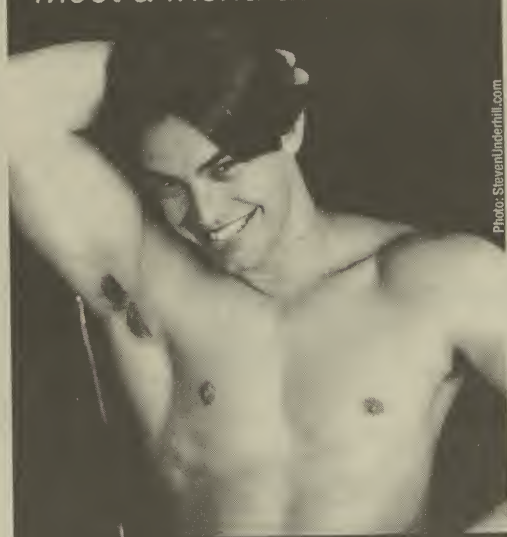
Meet a friend at Badlands

Photo: Steven Underhill.com

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Watrel triumphs in LA

Gene Romaine captures Seattle

by Mister Marcus

Two more leather icons emerged after last weekend when the Los Angeles Leather Coalition and the Washington State Mr. and Ms. Leather Organization staged their contests to record-breaking crowds in both cities. The only difference in the two is that Mr. Washington State Leather will not compete at IML until 2005, joining Mr. Alaska Leather and Mr. San Diego Leather in competing for IML 2005.

Domestic and foreign leather people converged at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Los Angeles for the LALC extravaganza, where they were treated to seminars, guided tours, play parties, dance parties, a street fair and shuttle buses to get everyone to the various venues. Oh, and don't forget they had a contest with nine men competing to succeed Stephen Blackwell.

As the master of ceremonies, Brian Dawson was as spiffy as you could get, and managed to maneuver through the various segments with calm dignity. After a quick rendition of the national anthem and a dashing uniformed color guard, LALC chairman Kevin Casey welcomed the crowd at the elegant El Rey Theatre on the Miracle Mile (Wilshire Boulevard), and the contest was on.

The usual categories, including physique, were paraded for the enthusiastic crowd, and much cheering greeted the various contestants. A dynamic acrobatic duo wowed the audience with their daring configurations and drew wild applause.

Outgoing Mr. LA Leather Stephen Blackwell gave an 11-minute step-aside speech, thanking all that believe in "boys" and supporters who made his year with the title one to remember.

The moment of truth was upon us before we knew it. The sash, the medals, the fanfares. The second runner-up named was Wil Wesley (Mr. LA Leather Bear); the 1st runner-up was Rev. Ricky Hoyt (Mr. Bullet Leather); and the



The Mr. Los Angeles 2004 contest winners (from left): Rev. Ricky Hoyt (1st runner-up); Marc Watrel, Mr. LA Leather 2004; and Wil Wesley, 2nd runner-up. They competed last Saturday, March 27 at the El Rey Theatre on the Miracle Mile in Los Angeles.

winner, Marc Watrel (also Mr. Faultline Leather). He advances to compete at IML next May.

There was a lot of hard work, planning and innovative that went into this year's production and it showed. The LALC should be proud of their accomplishment.

And in the Emerald City...

It was equally leathery in Seattle over the past weekend, as another big crowd turned out for the Mr. and Ms. Washington State Leather competitions, culminating a week-long Leather Pride Week on Saturday night, and the annual Emerald Awards on Sunday.

There were only one man and two women vying for the titles, with Gene Romaine competing for the

male title and Tina & Victoria vying for the female title.

Lenny Broberg was the head judge, and Frank Nowicki masterfully emceed the event. No details of the evening were available at my deadline, but Mr. Romaine managed to achieve the qualifying number of points from the judges to become Mr. Washington State Leather 2004, and Victoria Christian was chosen Ms. Washington State Leather 2004.

Rick Storer of the Leather Archives & Museum received the

highest Emerald Award at the ceremony on Sunday. Mr. Washington State Leather 2005 will be changed to a different date next year. Stay tuned.

Chest-A-Mania

The crowd was big (and enthusiastic) last Thursday, March 25 at the Powerhouse when only two men entered the 9th round of the 2005 calendar contests, "Jake" Anderson and Bobby Combs. The usual shenanigans ensued for the spirited crowd, and when the judges (Scott King, Tyrone Smith, Ken Ferraris, Tim Ault and Glen-non Sutter) tallied their scores, "Jake" Anderson qualified to compete in the final rounds. The final qualifying contest for the 2005 calendar takes place tonight, Thursday, April 1 at 9:30 p.m. at the Powerhouse.

The beat goes on

More leather gatherings in the weeks ahead. Two contests, one learning experience. This weekend, Ims.L Tammie Nelson produces the Indiana Leather Sir/boy competition in Indianapolis, while the leather faithful will gather in New Orleans for the Leather Leadership Conference. The LLC sent me no information on the weekend agenda, so all I can tell you is that it is taking place.

The weekend of April 9-11, the next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 1

Final round to qualify for the 2005 Bare Chest Calendar tonight at the Powerhouse, 2130. Easy way to volunteer for a worthy cause - the AEF and PRC, beneficiaries of calendar sales.

Weekend, April 2-4

Leather Leadership Conference in New Orleans; Indiana Leather Sir/boy in Indianapolis, Tribe MC of Detroit \$85 weekend run. For info: healergreg@prodigy.net.

Friday, April 2

Stompers Boot Night at the Loading Dock with an \$8 beer/soda bust from 2000-2300.

SF Leather Sir, Tom Braddock, hosts a Greasy Jock Strap Contest & Motor Oil Party at the Powerhouse to benefit HRC & GLAAD, at 2100. The "Snatch" flies in from Palm Springs to entertain. No prices given or other info.

Saturday, April 3

Golden Gate Guards MC beer/soda bust at the Lone Star Saloon from 1500-1900 for \$8.

Sunday, April 4

Team Bear beer/soda bust from 1800-2100 at the

Loading Dock with an \$8 donation to benefit Team Bear & AIDS Life Cycle.

Weekend, April 9-11

Mr. Chicago Leather 2004 contest at the Touché Bar in the Windy City tonight.

Tuesday, April 13

Bondage Buddies get all tied up at 933 Harrison tonight with doors open from 1900-2200. For info: 777-HEAD.

Weekend, April 15-19

American Brotherhood Weekend in the Washington DC area choosing 4 leather titles for the coming year. For info click on www.americanbrotherhood.com.

Thursday, April 15

SOMA Bare Chest Calendar competition forges ahead at the Powerhouse tonight at 2130. Come and see qualifying winners.

Friday, April 16

Castro Lions host a beer/soda bust at the Loading Dock with romantic bondage (?), Ice & Hot Wax demos. No times given.

PORN

Cocks by Colt

by John F. Karr

After spending his entire adult career cloistered at Falcon Studios, John Rutherford resigned last year, saying something about wanting to see what else was out there. So what new wonders did he find out in the big world? Exactly what he'd left. Rutherford bought Colt Studio from Jim French, and announced his aim of continuing the Colt traditions while revitalizing its film line. The first movie he made as Colt's new crown

Karnal Knowledge

head is the best Falcon movie Falcon never made.

Well, you can't expect Rutherford to re-invent the wheel his first time out. Yet *Reload* is high-



end product, a handsome movie that confidently sustains a languid mood. The brand-new look of its cinematography, with its arresting presence, stamps the product with a fresh and enviable identity. The lighting has a luminous glow, which, along with the camera-work, adores the performers at all times. And Hallelujah!, using a technique that was invented by D.W. Griffith but seems never to have been discovered by gay pornmakers, the editing replaces sharp cuts with smooth dissolves. This enhances the movie's tropical languor, and boosts the intimacy of two scenes. Yet, while *Reload* builds upon some of Rutherford's strengths, it also repeats his weaknesses. He's rarely been able to bring cumulative force to group scenes, and though the orgy here is stocked with real

muscle beauties, and features some well-done underwater photography and orgasms, it remains a restless succession of partner change and incident.

The movie's five scenes take place around and in the posh pool that played host to Tom Bianchi's famed *Out of the Studio* series. As homage to Colt history, each scene dissolves from a famed Colt photo or drawing to contemporary action. The outstanding first scene sizzles with the intense bonding of Marcus Iron and Alex

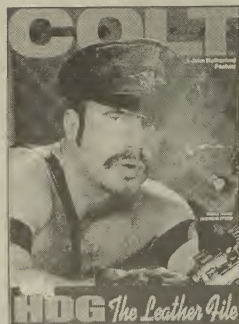
LeMonde. Talk about chem-

istry: as the pair luxuriates in masculine lovemaking, they seem to stop time. Yet the scene is a mere quarter-hour. What a dream. Next up are husky newcomer Tod Parker and slab of rock Jake Gianelli, working over dreamboat Trey Rexx. Trey's roseate skin, ginger-ale spray of pubic hair, and satiny blushing cock are gorgeously lit and filmed. The scene lacks sufficient reaction shots to involve us as personally as the opener did, but these three men are a feast for the eyes.

A quintet sporting in the pool begins with a neat trick, dissolving from a photo of Ray Dragon in his Colt heyday some years ago to a picture of Ray Dragon today: a little less gaunt and a lot more gray, but still defining masculinity. The scene is randomly observed and typically uninvolved, but becomes more focused when the fucking begins. Yet why is everyone so serious? Is it because they're butch? C'mon, guys — enjoy yourselves!

The finale reprises the memorable pairing of Chase Hunter and Lane Fuller in Falcon's *Drenched*, adding only a Rutherford fixation, the garden-hose enema (cold water is such an unsexy shock to the innards, and here are seven fill-em-up applications, two of them expelled bull's-eye into the camera). Once past this, the scene develops as effective a focus as the movie's opening: there's something about two people relating to each other that really sells the sex. Chase rims Lane so long I began to hope they'd put lots of sunscreen on that ring so pink 'n' tender. Lane sure knows how to ride Hunter's leviathan lingam. Best of all, his climax isn't an afterthought JO. Lane shoots while,

and because of, being well-fucked. If *Reload* is ultimately more a reworking of the Falcon formula than a reinvention of Colt, it's still an estimable launching of Rutherford's new enterprise.



Dick dictator

Reload was immediately followed by *Hog: The Leather File*. It has three extended scenes of hyper-butth leather action. In the concluding sling scene, dark-chocolate-colored Adam Dexter first pumps a fat dildo and then his own wicked cock into dog-boy Toby O'Connor. The central sequence presents a nonet of knock-out studs having intense mansex: lots of dark, stern musclemen with supreme bottom Derek Cameron as the (double-fucked) centerpiece. Once again, though, there's little cumulative effect. It's the opening that will rock your boat. Dave Angelo is poured into leathers that fit like a full-body foreskin, and sets new standards of cinematic masculinity as he forces butch bottom Todd Maxwell to yield to the dictatorship of his desires. He applies fingertip and tongue to Todd's asshole as if founding a new religion, and explodes in conquering roars and anguished groans when he cums. This is the sequence in which Rutherford updates the Colt image and leaves Falcon behind.

What else? The chaptering is good, the bonus material not competitive. And the mostly excellent music for both movies is by Sharon Kane, who certainly didn't compose Jaydee's "Plastic Dreams" for the soundtrack, but who may have remixed it. I was surprised to hear it, especially since it accompanies a leather orgy. Although disco can take you higher and higher, it ain't butch. www.coltstudio.com; (800) 445-COLT ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

spotlight is on Chicago as the Mr. Chicago Leather contest takes place at the Touché Bar on the North Side. The first ever Mr. Chicago Leather, Chuck Windemuth, has been hard at work with David Boyer and Chuck Rodocker to pull this one off. I'll be there, so you'll be the first to know the results.

The next weekend the leather gathering will take place in the Washington Metro Area, as the American Brotherhood Weekend will produce four leather icons, American Leather Man, American Leather Woman, American Leather Boy and American Leather Girl. There is a plethora of contestants ready to compete for these titles. Hope to see many of you there or at whichever you feel worthy of your presence. ▼



Mr. and Ms. Washington State Leather 2004 Gene Romaine and Victoria Christian were chosen at The Cuff in Seattle last Saturday, March 27.

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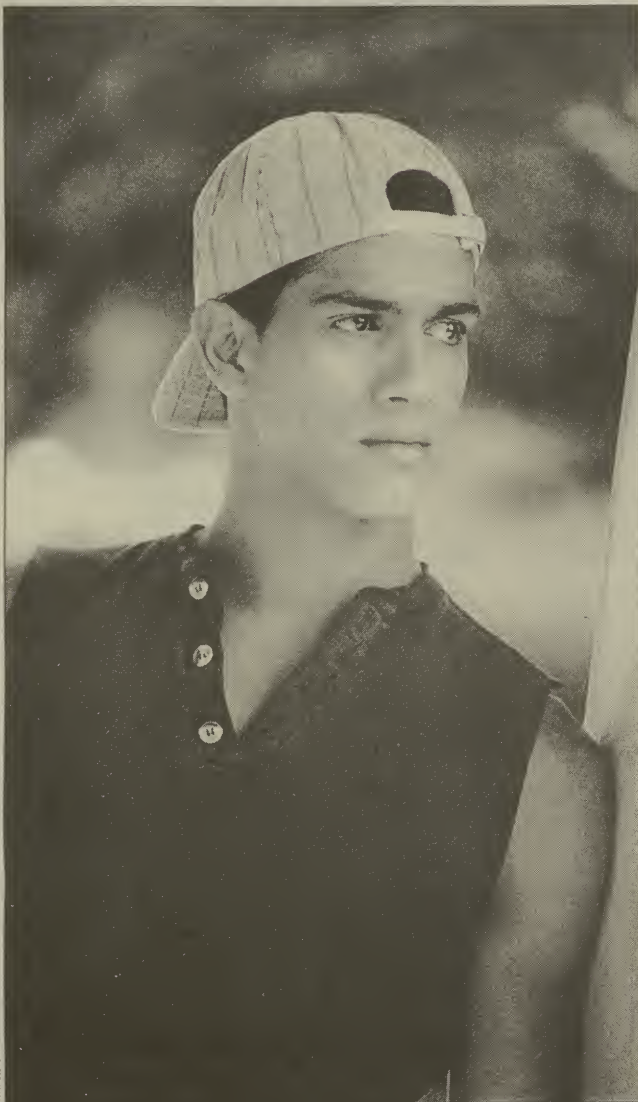
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Untangle my wand again, please...
What do baby names, Bakersfield and the Wizard of Oz have in common? ERAN! Need you to untangle my wand again...Kicking myself for not taking your card. ☎ 71146

Antonio Watergarden 3-13 S.J.
We met. You came to my room #14. It was great! Would love to see you again. Bill. ☎ 71147

Bob/Paul Jr flight #18 3/19/04
American Airlines SFO/JFK seat 26J. You were on your way home for your mother's birthday. Me, Asian, seat 25J. Can't forget your smile. Would love to meet you. ☎ 71157

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Athletic Skater Guy
39, 5'7", 156#, healthy, cute, slim, versatile, GLM legal resident: ISO slim, masc. guy GWM/GLM, hanging out buddy. Size unimportant. Small dick is nice to @ my height. Under 40 yrs, versatile. Into 69. ☎ 71122

Top Seeks Bottom w/Facial Hair
8" cut, works magic on supple butts. Be honest, be real, for experienced ride toward lifetime of ecstasy; be poz. ☎ 71123

Attention Huge Nippled Guys
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Muscular Guy Seeks Asian
I'm caucasian, 47 yrs, healthy, work out 4 days a week. Is there a smooth, muscular Asian out there who is serious, dependable and not into playing games? If so, call me...lets meet. ☎ 71125

Healthy Vegan Lookn 2 Date
41 yo GWM, 55, 130, wants 2 meet a vegetarian, drug N disease free. U: 35-50, slim, in shape. Likes art & nature. ☎ 71135

Craving Affection?
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Redhead
SWM, ex-navy, 5'10", 180 lbs. Mobile Home owner ☎ 71137

Asian
Young looking, caring GAM, mid 50's, slim, healthy, affectionate, is looking for an older GWM for relationship. We enjoy quiet times, cooking, traveling. No smoking. ☎ 71142

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ISO One Great Man
Me! GWM late 40's, top, 6'3", 175, height & weight proportionate. ISO White or Latin bottom h/w proportionate. ISO of good times & more. ☎ 71148

Cockucking Toilet Slave
Seeking one kinky HIV- top who needs regular service. I'm 58, long time gymed attractive and friendly. Love to please my man. Must be non-promiscuous. ☎ 71160

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I'd Love A Gay Beck

GWM, 52, 5'11", 185#, into Shakespear (and his intellectual context), Satie, Beck, daily workouts, seeks NS younger man for LTR. Prefer 5'4"-5'8", 110#-130#, sensual, affectionate, with cute butt. ☎ 71138

HIV+ 37yrs Straight Looking/Acting
I'm looking for a caucasian under 40 that likes movies and quiet and romantic dinners. I'm Latino, 5'1", blk short hair, mustache & goatee. I like hiking, swimming, biking and long walks on the beach & park. ☎ 71155

Affectionate Older Men

Affectionate, WLM, 6', 165 lbs. I enjoy being with older men over 60 who enjoy lots of cuddling, kissing, & other pleasures. Bearded, rustic-looking, husky, non gym, loners a plus. Poss LTR. No drugs or gay scene, but smoking, it drink OK. ☎ 71158

I Want It All

Makes out, intimate sex to nasty fun. I'm uninhibited, clean cut mostly oral bottom. Tall, HIV+, 40's & am looking for a good man 40-50 with a great attitude & large heart to explore. No drugs B.S. ☎ 71159

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

Hungry Blk Sub Sks Dom Top
5'10", 160, muscular slave. Seeks very dom, aggressive, verbal top. Into everything, eager to obey. You command, I obey. I love to be verbally abused, force fed, plowed, tied, spanked. ☎ 71121

I'd Love A Gay Beck

GWM, 52, 5'11", 185#, into Shakespear (and his intellectual context), Satie, Beck, daily workouts, seeks NS younger man for LTR. Prefer 5'4"-5'8", 110#-130#, sensual, affectionate, with cute butt. ☎ 71138

Smooth Asian

Seeking smooth gym toned white males to service orally and jerk off together. Let's play on a regular basis. ☎ 71126

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Seeking GWM For Private Party
Sexy GWM seeks tight Asian bottoms for private play party. Must be HIV-, no drugs, safe, slender. Call ASAP. ☎ 71128

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Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71145

Poz Blk Freak

5'8", 177, bald, cut, into video watching, rim, suck, fist fuck, toys, groups, JO, 3 ways and other nasty things. ☎ 71139

Blue Collar Stud(s) Sought

Latin or Arab a plus. To explore dominance/submission with mid-40's, Anglo over educated, but appreciative guy. ☎ 71141

Spanker Wanted For OTK

Spank my bare butt. Will reciprocate if desired or I spank you. No reciprocity required. Me: 159 lbs, 5'6", curly brown hair. Can do scenes. ☎ 71149

Dad Wants Your Ass

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Smokers

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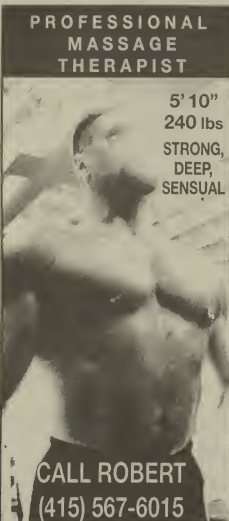
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Thai
Massage



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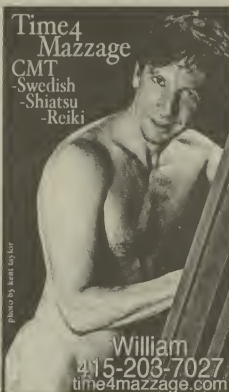
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by YG Asian \$65 out (650)302-4638

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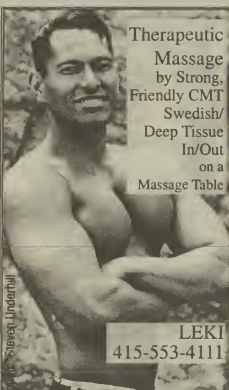
**Time4
Mazzege**



CMT
-Swedish
-Shiatsu
-Reiki

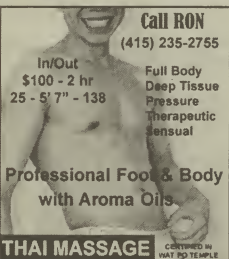
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by Strong,
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Deep Tissue
In/Out
on a
Massage Table



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In/Out
\$100 - 2 hr
25 - 5'7" - 138

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Pressure
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Sensual

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with Aroma Oils**

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Relaxing, Blissful
Deep tissue with
strong hand, unhurried
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professional CMT
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THAI

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My name is Byron. I am a passionate
sincere no attitude kind of guy with a
knack for deep tissue massage. I'm
24 yrs old with model looks. I have a
well defined body which I love having
explored. 6'1", 200#, bld/gre 8x6
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STRIP!
off your tension



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707 586 5945
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50 min N of SF
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all ages,
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body
types

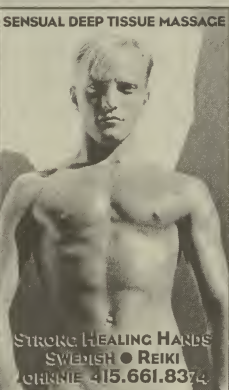
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11am-
10pm

CMT

Nude pics/info: www.OneHotMassage.com

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In-\$55/hr,
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Handsome Latino 27 yo, 150 lbs
5'8" masculine and friendly. Call
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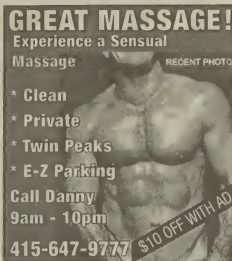
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RELAXATION**Playful, horny, adventurous. Relax &
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while I focus on you. Clean
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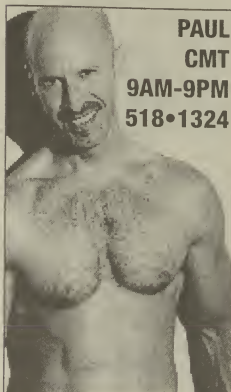
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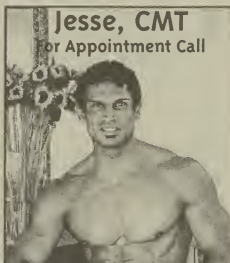
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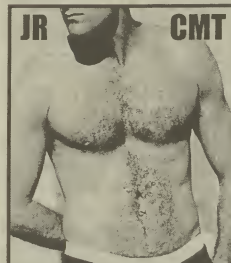
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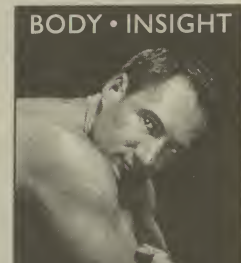
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5'9", 145#
30% wst, fit
Slim/Smooth
Blond/Brn Eyes
SF/Marin
In/Out
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HOT LATINO STUD
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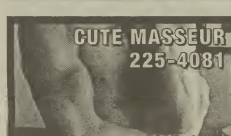
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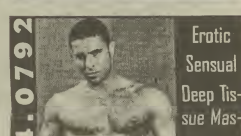
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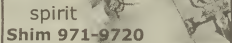


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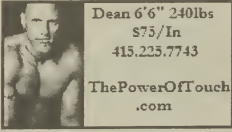


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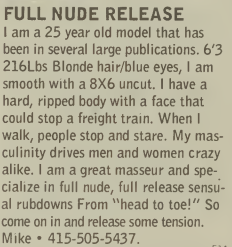


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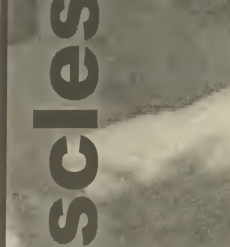


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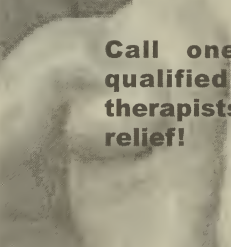
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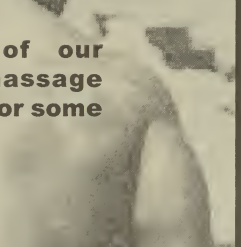
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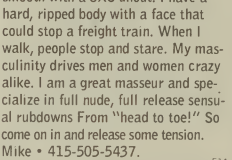


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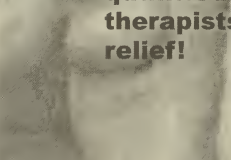
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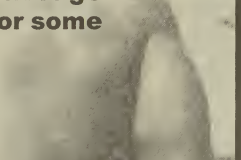
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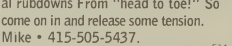


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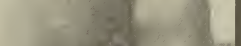
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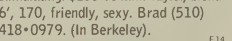


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SF/Marin
In/Out
Have table

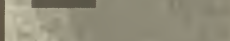


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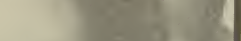
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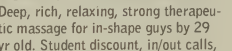


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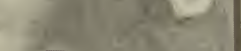
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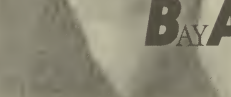
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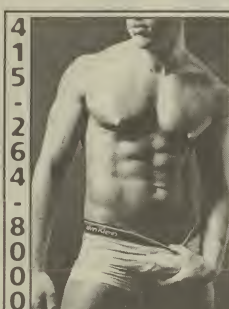
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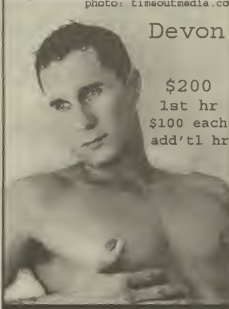
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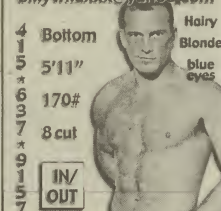
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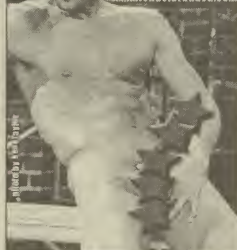
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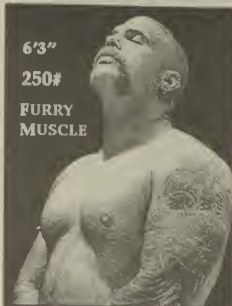
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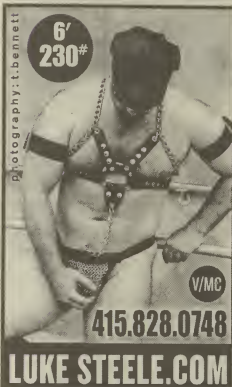
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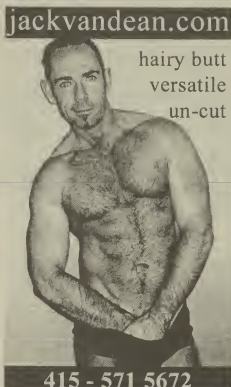



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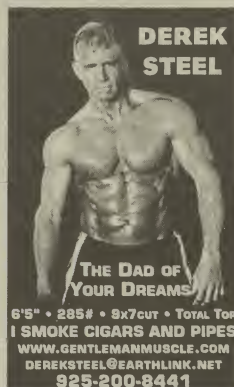
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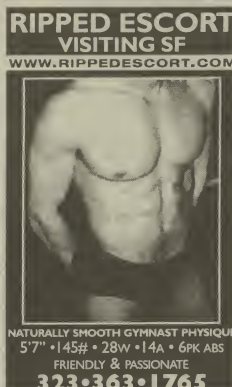
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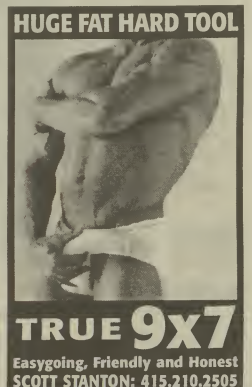
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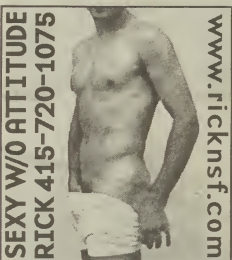
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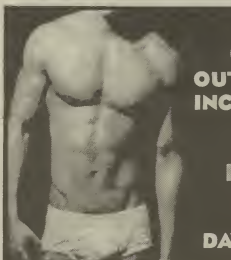


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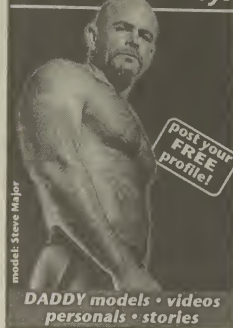
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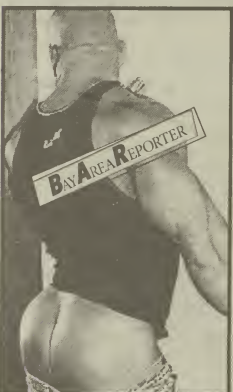
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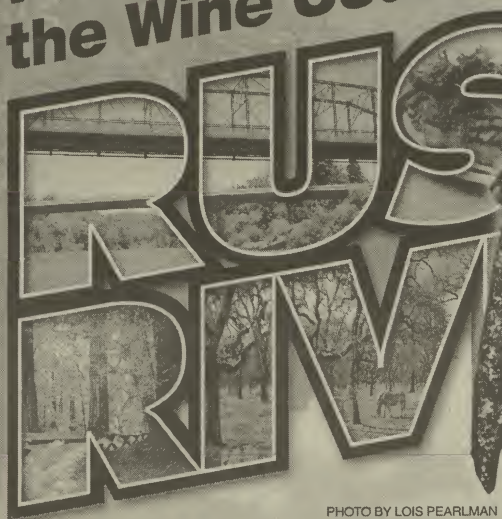


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